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D-DAY AT 75

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ON THE ROAD

The American Legion centennial display, "The Greatest Legislation," has paid tribute to the story of the GI Bill around the country, including last January's appearance at the Student Veterans of America National Conference. Photo by Holly K. Soria

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 13,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

THE GREATEST LEGISLATION
1943: A CRISIS AT HOME
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AN AMERICAN LEGION SALUTE TO TH G.I. BILL
PROSP
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'Everything Starts With a Picture'

I am glad to see the Army going back to the "pinks and greens" as a uniform (April). I was in the last senior ROTC class that issued them, and we looked great.

When I was called to active duty a year later, the green uniform had replaced them. Frankly, I thought we looked like bus drivers. I wore that uniform for nine years and never changed my opinion. Congratulations to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey for pushing for a return to a military-looking uniform.

– David S. Seitz, Glen Rock, Pa.

For the first time in at least 40 years, the Army is making a good uniform decision with the return of a classic uniform. The only way the Army can surpass it is to reinstate khakis, the best uniform it ever had.

– Daniel A. Peck, Greenfield, Ind.

I was extremely pleased to read the article about the Army bringing back the uniform that my father and uncle so proudly wore during their service in World War II. A great uniform and tribute. Now if the Air Force would bring back the uniform I proudly wore.

– Thomas E. Curling, Riner, Va.

I agree that the Army badly needed a good-looking service dress/business uniform between the utility/fatigues – which look OK for work, but not for office work or going downtown – and the more formal dress blues uniform. However, for all the adulation created by modeling them with soldiers wearing them as World War II throwbacks to the old officers' "pinks and greens," the fact is that soldiers never wore those in the old Army. "Pinks and greens" were for officers only. Enlisted men and women wore an olive drab uniform, sometimes with the same-colored Ike jacket. While it is good to sometimes revive the traditions of the old Army, putting enlisted soldiers in officer-style "pinks and greens" is not. Ordinary soldiers are not officers and should not be "trumped up" to look like them. There is a difference between soldiers and officers in pay, customs and responsibilities. The soldiers' uniforms should reflect that. Rites of passage in the transition from being a soldier to being an officer are highly prized, as they should be. To make all members look the same is not right or proper.

– Thomas D. Morgan, Steilacoom, Wash.

'A Century for Children & Youth'

In the article by Jeff Stoffer (April), I read that posts in the American Legion Department of Pennsylvania launched a School Award Medal program in 1921 "to recognize character, service and citizenship among young people." Our family hails from Easton, Pa., and my father (later a World War II Navy veteran) was a medal recipient. I always wondered about the origin of this award. Now I know.

– John Genther, Topeka, Kan.

Support for the Coast Guard

I would like to thank National Commander Brett Reistad for his article on the Coast Guard (Commander's Message, April). I wasn't a member of this branch of the service, but I was worried about how they would take care of their families. I am proud to be a member of an organization that puts the safety and security of our country before politics.

– Al Assad Rasheed, Little Rock, Ark.

Great message from the national commander. Shame on Congress, as he stated. Proud of The American Legion. I am an ex-Coastie.

– Bill Burrey, Lancaster, Pa.

Background checks for all gun sales

Being a Marine Corps veteran and NRA member, I take issue with Rep. Robin Kelly, D-Ill. (Big Issues, April). She states that gun violence has taken more lives than all U.S. wars combined. Does she mean in the United States or worldwide? She also says that nearly 100 people die daily from gun violence. Again, where? She offers these numbers without any verifiable source.

Next Kelly claims that 70 percent of NRA members support expanding background checks (untrue), while also saying that since 1994 more than 3 million dangerous people have been prevented from buying firearms due to background checks. If that is the case, why is more needed? Criminals don't buy guns legally and have their backgrounds checked.

Lastly, someone should inform her that the Second Amendment is not about sportsmanship, hunting and target shooting. When I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1952, I took the same oath she did. I take that oath very seriously: to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies. That includes the Bill of Rights. If she is not willing to do that, she should not be representing anyone.

– Richard M. Bisetti, Tujunga, Calif.

I believe Rep. Robin Kelly inadvertently moved a decimal point when she said "more than 70 percent of NRA members support expanding background checks to all gun sales." Seven percent sounds more accurate.

I have been hunting and shooting since high school. In the 48 years since, I have served in the military, sold sporting goods and worked as a law-enforcement supplier. I have talked to tens of thousands of people, of whom many thousands are NRA members. The number who thought it a good idea to expand background checks in the manner proposed was few. In fact, I don't think it even came up to 7 percent. Kelly should look at the motivations of those giving her those numbers, before speaking.

– Bill Watson, Anchorage, Alaska

The Constitution is not a list of suggestions. It is the rules of the game. If one will not obey the rules for changing it, he should go to another stadium.

Also, the Second Amendment was not written to protect me from burglars or deer. It was written to protect me from you. I'd also point out that "common sense" gun laws have preceded every tyrannical government.

– Paul Rodriguez, Kansas City, Mo.

'Freeloading or frugal?'

The article about Congress and living arrangements (Rapid Fire, March) reminded me of my assignment to Comiso Air Base in Italy. I was assigned to the clinic and routinely spent the night in my office, as the only transportation to my off-base lodging was by a government bus with a limited schedule; if you missed the bus due to work or social reasons, there was no other. Most off-base staff had sleeping bags rolled under their desks, and it never interfered with our ability to do our jobs.

Kudos to members of Congress who want to make it to roll call to discuss real issues without having to fork out the fee for overpriced D.C. lodging. Leave it to Congress to make an issue out of someone who wants to be there and do their job.

– Eloise Hazelwood, Fort Pierce, Fla.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

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The right to be Legionnaires

When is a war a war? When bullets, bombs, missiles or weapons of mass destruction are aimed at American servicemembers. Size, scope, media coverage – none of it matters when someone is trying to kill you.

The fact is, the United States has been at war since Dec. 7, 1941. Nearly 1,600 American servicemembers have been killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not recognized or declared by the U.S. government as times of war.

Now here's the rub. The American Legion was chartered by Congress as a "wartime veterans organization." At the time of our founding in 1919, World War I – then known as the "Great War" – was supposed to be the "war to end all wars." As we all know, it wasn't.

For too long, veterans have wondered why only those who served during designated wartime eras could join The American Legion. We mean it when we answer, "It takes an act of Congress."

On Feb. 14, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (aka the LEGION Act), S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, has been introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

The LEGION Act would open The American Legion's membership eligibility dates from Dec. 7, 1941, to a time as yet determined by the U.S. government that we are not at war. If signed into law, this bill would fulfill Resolution No. 1, passed unanimously by the Legion's National Executive Committee last October in Indianapolis.

Should Congress take action to expand our organization's charter, hundreds of thousands more veterans would have access to American Legion programs and benefits for which they are currently not eligible.

Again, the LEGION Act recognizes that the United States has been continuously engaged in a state of war since World War II. Whether a veteran served during the Cold War or a hot one, he or she took the same oath to support and defend our Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. This legislation is a great way to say "thank you."

We believe that all veterans who served honorably on federal orders since Dec. 7, 1941, have earned the right to be welcomed into the ranks of The American Legion. They have earned the right to enjoy the camaraderie and privilege of belonging to the nation's most influential and active veterans service organization. They have earned the right to call themselves Legionnaires.

The American Legion's founders did not distinguish between those who fought in the trenches of Europe and those stationed in the United States or at sea. They acknowledged that servicemembers went where the government sent them and that they were all part of the war effort.

Encourage your representatives and senators to support the LEGION Act, because all veterans deserve recognition for the risks they faced while in uniform, regardless of when and where they served. Let's give them the opportunity to join their brothers and sisters in arms in The American Legion.

National Commander
Brett P. Reistad

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For an FAQ and more about the flag, go to ***legion.org/flag***. Pause for the Pledge will take place at 7 p.m. EDT June 14.

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> *“When I see the flag or salute the flag, I remember the men and women who sacrificed so we could be free.”*

Photo by Michael Henninger

HOLLY LEWIS

For Holly Lewis, doing the work of The American Legion in her community means following the lead of the organization’s founders.

She finds her inspiration in one particular phrase in the preamble to the Legion’s constitution: “To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.”

“‘Inculcate’ means to teach repeatedly,” Lewis says. “It’s our job to teach repeatedly. What applied 100 years ago still applies today, and it will apply in the future.”

An example is the annual Flag Day retirement ceremony hosted by Stevens-Christian Memorial Post 557 in Wintersville, Ohio, where Lewis is commander. Community members turn in roughly 500 worn flags.

“Our post feels that our flag retirement is really important to the community, especially to our youth,” she says. “It’s a teaching opportunity for our local Boy Scouts, Young Marines, our grandchildren, our children, to teach them what it means to have respect for our flag and how to retire it properly.”

As Legion Family members, Boy Scouts, community members and others take turns lowering the flags into a contained fire, Lewis looks at the bigger picture.

“Success would mean that there wouldn’t be a child in this community who didn’t respect our flag, respect what it stands for, and know its proper handling and care. We’re not there yet. But with our passion and our willingness to go out and do these types of events, we’ll get there eventually.”

– Henry Howard

BRANCH OF SERVICE Navy (1985-1992)

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MILITARY JOB Ocean systems technician (maintainer)

AMERICAN LEGION POST Stevens-Christian Memorial Post 557, Wintersville, Ohio

YEARS IN THE LEGION 11

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- District commander (2017-2018)
- Department assistant sergeant-at-arms (2018-present)
- National Media & Communications Council (2017-present)
- Race-to-the-Top Large Category winner (2018)

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★ ★ ★

These may be indicators of bronchiectasis—a common but frequently undiagnosed condition caused by chronic inflammation of the airways.[1]

COPD is about four times more prevalent among veterans than in the general population.[2] Half of people with serious COPD may have bronchiectasis.[3]

50%

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Permanent abortion funding ban

SUPPORT

Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill.

■ Lipinski serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

OPPOSE

Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif.

■ Swalwell is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would make permanent the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits tax dollars being used to pay for elective abortions. A competing bill, the EACH Woman Act, would repeal the ban on the use of federal funds for abortions.

As an elected public official, one of the ways I can assist in protecting those who are vulnerable is by enshrining the Hyde Amendment into law. Introduced in 1976, the life-saving Hyde Amendment prevents the use of taxpayer dollars to fund most abortions and abortion coverage through government programs like Medicaid.

An ever-growing majority of Americans believe our government should not fund abortion. A January Marist poll that found a majority of Americans oppose any taxpayer funding of abortion by a double-digit margin (54 percent to 39 percent). The strong support for restricting taxpayer funding for abortion came despite the fact that a majority of Americans identify as pro-choice (55 percent).

While one would think an amendment that responds to widely supported beliefs and whose protections are responsible for 2 million Americans being alive today should be celebrated, there are pro-abortion extremists in Congress who aim to eliminate it. Fortunately, President Trump has pledged his commitment to make the Hyde Amendment permanent. The bill I co-sponsored with Rep. Chris Smith, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, does that.

Our bill does two important things:

- It makes the Hyde Amendment and other current abortion-funding prohibitions permanent.
- It ensures that any health insurance plan on the health-care exchanges that funds abortion is fully disclosed and transparent to the consumer.

Our bill responds to a clear mandate from a majority of Americans that their tax dollars shouldn't pay for abortions. This is just one of many ways we can protect the vulnerable.

Can you name a medical procedure for men that's permitted by law, yet restricted so that it's unavailable to the poor or residents of specific states? I didn't think so. Yet since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has forbidden using federal funds to cover abortion services, most notably through Medicaid but also for public employees, military families, Peace Corps volunteers and Native Americans served by the Indian Health Service.

This has effectively ensured that while well-off women can exercise their constitutional right to make their own medical decisions, poorer women cannot and so endure unwanted pregnancies or unsafe alternatives. Much of that is by women of color, mothers of multiple children and single parents. And 25 states have imposed even more restrictions, some prohibiting private insurance's coverage of abortion services – leaving women in many places with no option.

That's why I'll be an original co-sponsor of the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act in this Congress, as I was in the 114th and 115th Congresses. The bill requires that if a woman gets her care or insurance through the federal government, her insurance provider will be reimbursed for all reproductive care, including abortion. And it bars federal, state or local political meddling in the decisions of private health-insurance companies to offer coverage for abortion care.

With a record number of women now serving our nation in the House, I hope we will vote upon the EACH Woman Act and pass it – a moment in which those who truly believe in freedom can stand up and be counted.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable *(name)*, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121
The Honorable *(name)*, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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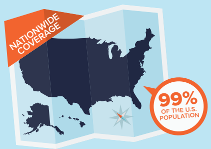

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Eye on the skies

A 12-year study by the National Lightning Safety Council found that of 396 people killed by lightning between 2006 and 2018, almost two-thirds were involved in outdoor activities, primarily sports.

The study identified fishing with 38 deaths, beach-going with 23, camping with 19, boating with 17, soccer with 12 and golf with 10. Many of the fishing, boating and camping deaths occurred because of the extra time required to get to a safe place.

One myth about lightning is that it never strikes twice in the same place, yet lightning often strikes the same place over and over. The Empire State Building is hit more than 20 times a year.

Another myth is that if it's not raining or there are no clouds overhead, a person is safe from lightning. Yet lightning can strike 10 to 15 miles from a thunderstorm.

To evaluate a storm's closeness, use the "flash-to-bang" method. Every five seconds between the lightning flash and the bang of the thunder equals 1 mile. When you see the lightning flash, count the number of seconds until you hear thunder. If it's 30 or fewer, the storm is within 6 miles and poses a serious risk. However, a better rule of thumb may be the National Weather Service's tagline: "When thunder roars, go indoors."

– John Lowery

Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

Photo courtesy U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The advantages of VA telehealth

BY BETH W. ORENSTEIN

One of Leonie Heyworth's patients had experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder since returning from Vietnam but never addressed them. Part of his reluctance to seek care was that the Army veteran lived on a desert farm, three hours from the nearest VA clinic.

When Heyworth suggested he receive mental health care via the VA Telehealth Services program, he agreed. He received a computer tablet through which he could consult mental health professionals by video without leaving home. "It was a huge success," says Heyworth, VA's national director of synchronous telehealth. "The care he received absolutely transformed him."

Heyworth says that VA video "visits" work particularly well for those who need mental health care from psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other professionals. "The veterans often are more comfortable receiving their mental health care at home in an environment that is familiar to them," she says.

Nowadays, telehealth is a tool for everything from acute care to management of chronic conditions. Patients have used it for animal bites, arm and facial lacerations, cough, dry mouth, ear pain, eye irritation or itching, flu checkups, itchy scalp, lip swelling with cold sores, localized rash, sore throat and sunburn, to name just a few health concerns.

To qualify for a video visit, veterans must have a smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. If they don't have their own device, they may qualify for a loaned device from VA, Heyworth says. They also need a cellular data plan or some way of connecting over the Internet.

The provider responds to requests for visits with an email that has a link to the video chat. The patient opens the email, clicks on the link and is connected via video conference to the provider. While not

See **TELEHEALTH** *on page* **17**

WITH STAGE 3 LUNG CANCER

I'M IN WITH IMFINZI

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FIRST & ONLY TREATMENT APPROVED for people with unresectable Stage 3 non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) whose disease has not progressed following concurrent chemoradiation therapy (CRT).

IMFINZI SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE CHANCE OF LUNG CANCER SPREADING

IMFINZI may not work for everyone.

IMFINZI is an immunotherapy. People receiving IMFINZI had a 48% lower chance of lung cancer growing or spreading than those receiving placebo (no medicine). It was also proven to give people 3x more time without their cancer spreading compared with placebo.* Before IMFINZI, the last 10 years showed only limited advancements to the current standard of care for unresectable Stage 3 NSCLC.

*In a clinical trial, the median time tumors did not grow or spread was 16.8 months for the 476 patients receiving IMFINZI compared with 5.6 months for the 237 patients receiving placebo. Median is the middle number in a group of numbers arranged from lowest to highest. Individual results may vary.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT IMFINZI. VISIT IMFINZI.COM

IMFINZI was studied in 713 patients with unresectable Stage 3 NSCLC who completed at least 2 cycles of chemotherapy that contained platinum given at the same time (concurrent) as radiation before starting the trial. Patients in the study had good performance status (WHO 0 or 1). IMFINZI was tested against placebo (no medication).

The main goal of the trial was to measure the length of time people remained progression free (without cancer growing or spreading) and overall survival. At the time of analysis, overall survival comparison was not yet available. This trial is still ongoing.

WHO IS IMFINZI FOR?

IMFINZI® (durvalumab) is a prescription medicine used to treat a type of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). IMFINZI may be used when your NSCLC has not spread outside your chest, cannot be removed by surgery, **and** has responded or stabilized with initial treatment with chemotherapy that contains platinum, given at the same time as radiation therapy.

It is not known if IMFINZI is safe and effective in children.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about IMFINZI?

IMFINZI is a medicine that may treat a type of lung cancer by working with your immune system.

IMFINZI can cause your immune system to attack normal organs and tissues and can affect the way they work. These problems can sometimes become serious or life-threatening and can lead to death.

Call or see your healthcare provider right away if you develop any symptoms of the following problems or if these symptoms get worse:

Lung problems (pneumonitis). Signs and symptoms may include new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, and chest pain.

Liver problems (hepatitis). Signs and symptoms may include yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, severe nausea or vomiting, pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen), drowsiness, dark urine (tea colored), bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, and feeling less hungry than usual.

Intestinal problems (colitis). Signs and symptoms may include diarrhea or more bowel movements than usual; stools that are black, tarry, sticky, or have blood or mucus; and severe stomach-area (abdomen) pain or tenderness.

Hormone gland problems (especially the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary, and pancreas). Signs and symptoms that your hormone glands are not working properly may include headaches that will not go away or unusual headaches; extreme tiredness; weight gain or weight loss; dizziness or fainting; feeling more hungry or thirsty than usual; hair loss; feeling cold; constipation; your voice gets deeper; urinating more often than usual; nausea or vomiting; stomach-area (abdomen) pain; and changes in mood or behavior, such as decreased sex drive, irritability, or forgetfulness.

Kidney problems, including nephritis and kidney failure. Signs of kidney problems may include decrease in the amount of urine, blood in your urine, swelling of your ankles, and loss of appetite.

Skin problems. Signs may include rash, itching, and skin blistering.

Problems in other organs. Signs and symptoms may include neck stiffness; headache; confusion; fever; chest pain, shortness of breath, or irregular heartbeat (myocarditis); changes in mood or behavior; low red blood cells (anemia); excessive bleeding or bruising; muscle weakness or muscle pain; blurry vision, double vision, or other vision problems; and eye pain or redness.

Severe infections. Signs and symptoms may include fever, cough, frequent urination, pain when urinating, and flu-like symptoms.

Severe infusion reactions. Signs and symptoms may include chills or shaking, itching or rash, flushing, shortness of breath or wheezing, dizziness, fever, feeling like passing out, back or neck pain, and facial swelling.

Getting medical treatment right away may help keep these problems from becoming more serious. Your healthcare provider will check you for these problems during your treatment with IMFINZI. Your healthcare provider may treat you with corticosteroid or hormone replacement medicines. Your healthcare provider may delay or completely stop treatment with IMFINZI if you have severe side effects.

Before you receive IMFINZI, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you have immune system problems such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or lupus; have had an organ transplant; have lung or breathing problems; have liver problems; or are being treated for an infection.

If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, tell your healthcare provider. IMFINZI can harm your unborn baby. If you are able to become pregnant, you should use an effective method of birth control during your treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI. Talk to your healthcare provider about which birth control methods to use. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant during treatment with IMFINZI.

If you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed, tell your healthcare provider. It is not known if IMFINZI passes into breast milk. Do not breastfeed during treatment with IMFINZI and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

What are the possible side effects of IMFINZI?

IMFINZI can cause serious side effects (see earlier).

The most common side effects in people with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) include cough, feeling tired, inflammation in the lungs (pneumonitis), upper respiratory tract infections, shortness of breath, and rash.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of IMFINZI. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of complete Prescribing Information on the following page.

If you cannot afford your medications, AstraZeneca may be able to help. Visit AstraZeneca-us.com to find out how.

IMFINZI®
durvalumab
Injection for Intravenous Use 50 mg/mL

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT IMFINZI® (im-FIN-zee) (durvalumab) INJECTION

IMFINZI™
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Injection for Intravenous Use 50 mg/mL

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IMFINZI?

IMFINZI is a medicine that may treat a type of lung cancer by working with your immune system.

IMFINZI can cause your immune system to attack normal organs and tissues and can affect the way they work. These problems can sometimes become serious or life-threatening and can lead to death.

Call or see your healthcare provider right away if you develop any symptoms of the following problems or these symptoms get worse:

Lung problems (pneumonitis). Signs and symptoms of pneumonitis may include:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath
- chest pain

Liver problems (hepatitis). Signs and symptoms of hepatitis may include:

- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes
- severe nausea or vomiting
- pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen)
- drowsiness
- dark urine (tea colored)
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- feeling less hungry than usual

Intestinal problems (colitis). Signs and symptoms of colitis may include:

- diarrhea or more bowel movements than usual
- stools that are black, tarry, sticky, or have blood or mucus
- severe stomach area (abdomen) pain or tenderness

Hormone gland problems (especially the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary and pancreas). Signs and symptoms that your hormone glands are not working properly may include:

- headaches that will not go away or unusual headaches
- extreme tiredness
- weight gain or weight loss
- dizziness or fainting
- feeling more hungry or thirsty than usual
- hair loss
- changes in mood or behavior, such as decreased sex drive, irritability, or forgetfulness
- feeling cold
- constipation
- your voice gets deeper
- urinating more often than usual
- nausea or vomiting
- stomach area (abdomen) pain

Kidney problems, including nephritis and kidney failure. Signs of kidney problems may include:

- decrease in the amount of urine
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your ankles
- loss of appetite

Skin problems. Signs of these problems may include:

- rash
- itching
- skin blistering

(continued)

Problems in other organs. Signs and symptoms may include:

- neck stiffness
- headache
- confusion
- fever
- chest pain, shortness of breath, or irregular heartbeat (myocarditis)
- changes in mood or behavior
- low red blood cells (anemia)
- excessive bleeding or bruising
- muscle weakness or muscle pain
- blurry vision, double vision, or other vision problems
- eye pain or redness

Severe infections. Signs and symptoms may include:

- fever
- cough
- frequent urination
- pain when urinating
- flu-like symptoms

Severe infusion reactions. Signs and symptoms of severe infusion reactions may include:

- chills or shaking
- itching or rash
- flushing
- shortness of breath or wheezing
- dizziness
- fever
- feel like passing out
- back or neck pain
- facial swelling

Getting medical treatment right away may help keep these problems from becoming more serious.

Your healthcare provider will check you for these problems during your treatment with IMFINZI. Your healthcare provider may treat you with corticosteroid or hormone replacement medicines. Your healthcare provider may delay or completely stop treatment with IMFINZI, if you have severe side effects.

WHAT IS IMFINZI?

IMFINZI is a prescription medicine used to treat:

- a type of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). IMFINZI may be used when your NSCLC:
  - has not spread outside your chest
  - cannot be removed by surgery, **and**
  - has responded or stabilized with initial treatment with chemotherapy that contains platinum, given at the same time as radiation therapy.

It is not known if IMFINZI is safe and effective in children.

Before you receive IMFINZI, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have immune system problems such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or lupus
- have had an organ transplant
- have lung or breathing problems
- have liver problems
- are being treated for an infection
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. IMFINZI can harm your unborn baby. If you are able to become pregnant, you should use an effective method of birth control during your treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI. Talk to your healthcare provider about birth control methods that you can use during this time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant during treatment with IMFINZI.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if IMFINZI passes into your breast milk. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE IMFINZI?

- Your healthcare provider will give you IMFINZI into your vein through an intravenous (IV) line over 60 minutes.
- IMFINZI is usually given every 2 weeks.
- Your healthcare provider will decide how many treatments you need.
- Your healthcare provider will test your blood to check you for certain side effects.
- If you miss any appointments, call your healthcare provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF IMFINZI?

IMFINZI CAN CAUSE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, INCLUDING:

SEE "WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IMFINZI?"

The most common side effects of IMFINZI in people with NSCLC include:

- cough
- feeling tired
- inflammation in the lungs (pneumonitis)
- upper respiratory tract infections
- shortness of breath
- rash

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of IMFINZI. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF IMFINZI.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. If you would like more information about IMFINZI, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider for information about IMFINZI that is written for health professionals.

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(continued)

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TELEHEALTH *continued from page* **14**

the same as an in-person visit, "it is as if I'm seeing them and can use the screen to share test results and other information," Heyworth says.

Telehealth is particularly helpful for patients who live a far distance from a VA clinic or have mobility or transportation issues. Indeed, more than half of the 582,000 video visits in fiscal 2018 supported veterans living in rural areas.

Video visits are secure and afford patients all the privacy they would have at an in-office or hospital visit, Heyworth says. "Everything is quite secure and encrypted."

In fiscal 2018, VA surpassed 1 million video health visits for the first time, an increase of about 20 percent over the previous year.

With the largest telehealth program in the country, VA recently announced it is expanding it even more. Working with the health-care company Philips, VA is setting up clinical services through veterans service organizations nationwide, including American Legion posts. Philips will provide equipment for a video telehealth session so that veterans can go to their nearest VSO to "see" a VA medical professional if they prefer that to a home or workplace visit.

The professional who delivers their care may be hundreds or even thousands of miles away. The idea is to support veterans who don't have the resources to participate or who live in areas where broadband connectivity is poor, Heyworth says. "We are working with American Legion national leadership and local posts to do this," she adds.

VA is also increasing the providers who participate in the program. "By the end of fiscal 2020, our goal is for every mental health and primary care provider to be able to do video visits," Heyworth says. "And by the end of fiscal 2021, we hope to have all specialty providers participating as well." Veterans can always choose traditional in-person care if they prefer, Heyworth adds.

Beth W. Orenstein of Northampton, Pa., is a freelance medical writer and regular contributor to Living Well.

Learn more about VA's telehealth program:
www.telehealth.va.gov

Photo courtesy U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Media Bakery

The truth about eating and aging

Our bodies digest food differently as we age. Metabolism slows down, and nutrients are absorbed in different ways, especially after 50, *WebMD* magazine reports. Unfortunately, these realities about aging have led to several myths about what and how to eat as we age.

Myth 1: Since my metabolism is slower, I need to eat less. This is not necessarily true. *WebMD* notes that "moderately active" men older than 50 should get between 2,200 and 2,400 calories a day. Moderately active women should consume about 1,800 calories daily. But since it is more difficult as we age to take in certain nutrients like B12, calcium, zinc, iron and vitamin D, "you may need to eat more of some and less of others to get the right nutrition." *WebMD* suggests protein, fruits and vegetables.

Myth 2: Supplements are good for you, so more is better. In the case of calcium, the more you eat, the more you'll absorb, and it'll come out in the urine – but it increases your risk of having kidney stones in the process, says Bess Dawson-Hughes of the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University.

Myth 3: I'm not all that hungry right now. It's OK to skip a meal. "Your body is a bonfire," says Nancy Farrell, a dietitian with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. "If you're having a bonfire in your backyard, you're going to throw another piece of wood or a log on it to keep that fire burning. That keeps the metabolism up and running."

Myth 4: It's too late to change my habits. While it may be tougher to change habits, it is never too late or too early to work on behavior changes in any phase of life, Farrell says. For instance, people wanting to cut calories and lose weight should choose "nutrient-dense" foods such as fruits, vegetables, grains (oatmeal and brown rice), beans, nuts, lean meats, eggs and seafood. Of course, it helps to avoid fast food, high-sugar drinks, desserts, and foods made with butter or shortening, or made from refined grains like white bread or pasta.

TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

PART 10

A FIRST-CLASS FUTURE

BY JEFF STOFFER

The GI Bill at 75, ever a journey in progress.

***ABOVE:** Army veteran and San Diego State University student Kiara Blanchard told The American Legion in 2017 that the GI Bill provided her a path to higher education.* Photo by Clay Lomneth

ON HIS FIRST DAY as a U.S. senator in 2007, Vietnam War combat veteran James Webb of Virginia introduced the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. He had been working on it since he was elected two months earlier. He wanted to bring today's GI Bill benefits up to par with the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, which was signed into law 75 years ago this month, during World War II.

"I looked at this both as a veteran and as the father of a young Marine in Iraq, and I started saying, 'If you're going to call these people the next greatest generation, you should give them the same opportunity for a future that the first greatest generation had,'" Webb said at a 2017 American Legion Centennial panel discussion at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. "Pay their tuition. Buy their books and give them a monthly stipend."

Since the Post-9/11 GI Bill was enacted in 2009, nearly 2.5 million veterans have used it. The 1944 measure educated more than 8 million World War II veterans and transformed U.S. economy and culture, but subsequent renditions were whittled to the point that they weren't keeping pace with skyrocketing higher-education costs and had fallen out of step with the needs of 21st-century veterans.

"The World War II GI Bill was principally seen as a readjustment benefit – not a recruitment benefit, not a reward – to allow veterans who had served their country to get back into the mainstream and compete with people who hadn't been in the military," Webb told *The American Legion Magazine*.

"With the signing of this bill, a well-rounded program of special veterans' benefits is nearly completed. It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the signing ceremony for the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, the original GI Bill

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"These expenditures, which will amount to approximately $11 billion, represent for the most part a continuing cost of World War II; in addition, they include the costs of services and benefits for the growing number of veterans of the fighting in Korea."

President Harry Truman, in his annual budget message to Congress, after having signed the Korean War version of the GI Bill July 16, 1952

The Korean War version of the GI Bill, signed into law July 16, 1952, reduced the number of weeks a veteran could receive unemployment compensation after discharge from 52 to 26, and tuition funds were no longer disbursed to institutions but were instead paid to individual veterans at a flat rate. Changes occurred after some colleges exploited the World War II GI Bill by jacking up tuitions; Korean War veterans were directly paid $110 per month to cover tuition, fees, books and living expenses, regardless of where they went to school or the actual cost.

The Veterans Benefits Readjustment Act of 1966, the "Cold War/Vietnam GI Bill," also disbursed funds on a flat basis per month and although the rates were comparatively lower than other versions of the GI Bill, some 5.5 million Vietnam War veterans ultimately used some or all of their education benefits.

"What happened in that case was the maximum Vietnam veterans got, as I recall, was $340 a month, and it really depended on where you were geographically, and the type of school you were going to, as to how much that actually benefited you," Webb said. "Nothing compared to the World War II GI Bill, other than the voc-rehab programs for the people who were wounded or left on disability. And then the Montgomery GI Bill was a peacetime GI Bill. The GI Bill was designed originally as a wartime readjustment benefit at a time when the draft was in place and people were involuntarily called into the military. The Montgomery GI Bill was a pay-in GI Bill, a matching-funds GI Bill designed for the volunteer military, as an incentive rather than a readjustment benefit."

The Montgomery GI Bill, signed into law Oct. 24, 1984, served veterans over the next 25 years and remains available for those who choose to forfeit a portion of their monthly pay while in the service to collect college assistance later, with a 10-year deadline to use the benefits. Most of today's new veterans, however, use the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which Webb authored, introduced and then engaged The American Legion, active-duty personnel and other veterans organizations to make modifications.

"The most important thing to me was to provide these people who have served since 9/11 the same opportunity for a first-class future as those who came home from World War II," Webb explained. "You could see that the operational demands on the people, post-9/11, and the repetitive deployments, really were calling for something of this scale, that the Vietnam veterans should have had … and the World War II veterans did have."

In addition to resuming the practice of paying full tuitions, based on state college high averages,

THE GREATEST LEGISLATION: AN AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL SALUTE TO THE GI BILL

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans officially kicked off the American Legion centennial program with a panel discussion to welcome "The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill." A panel discussion and reception began the six-month exhibition there.

Afterward, the display began traveling the nation, with stops at the 10th Student Veterans of America National Conference in San Antonio, Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles, the Montana Military Museum in Helena, Mont., the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge, Iowa, the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas, the 100th American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, the George W. Bush President Library and Museum in Dallas, the Satilla Regional Library in Douglas, Ga., and the American Legion Department of Georgia Headquarters in Atlanta. The display of illustrated panels, artifacts and video kiosks was set to continue traveling throughout the centennial year, and beyond, in recognition of the GI Bill and its evolution.

Former U.S. Sen. James Webb spoke at a 2017 panel discussion that began the GI Bill display journey.

Photo by Matthew Hinton

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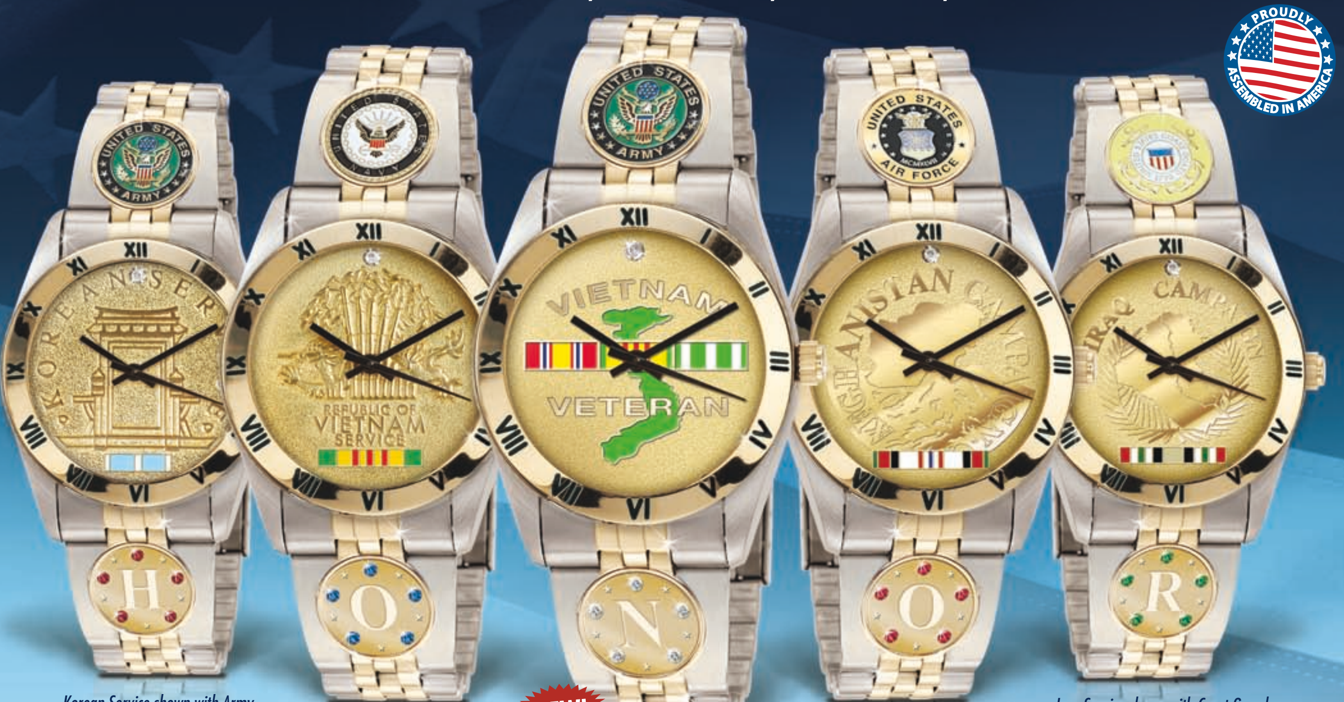

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"We are saying to the brave Americans who serve us in uniform, in camps and bases, in villages and jungles, that your country is behind you, that we support you, that you serve us in time of danger."

President Lyndon B. Johnson, at a White House ceremony to sign the Veterans Benefits Readjustment Act of 1966, the Cold War/Vietnam War GI Bill

directly to institutions, the Post-9/11 GI Bill added the ability for a veteran with 10 years or more in the service to pass education benefits along to spouses and dependents, a feature Webb says was not in his original measure but was added later after he learned, primarily from active-duty personnel, how important that would be to them. His time between 1977 and 1981 on the legal staff of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs gave Webb an understanding of how to get the Post-9/11 GI Bill right: work with veterans and veterans organizations. At the time, he explained, the Pentagon opposed the measure altogether, as did many in senior Senate leadership, some of whom believed the benefit would drive troops out of the service and others who thought the Montgomery GI Bill was just fine.

"We did it by working with the veterans groups, with the constituent groups, listening to them … some adjusting here and there, and convincing other people in Congress that what you really needed was this larger-scope change in how veterans education was being taken care of. Very similar to how the original GI Bill was brought to the Congress."

The American Legion faced similar challenges with the military branches, lawmakers and even some other veterans organizations (who argued that money spent on college would put funding for disabled veteran care in jeopardy) who opposed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. It took a nationwide media blitz, backed by the William Randolph Hearst newspaper empire, the collection of 1,536 case studies from disabled veterans throughout the country who came home to little or no support and a last-minute drama June 9, 1944, to whisk Rep. John Gibson from rural Georgia to Washington, D.C., to cast the deciding vote to free the measure from a deadlocked conference committee and advance it to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's desk for signing June 22, 1944.

The first Post-9/11 GI Bill, signed by President George W. Bush on June 30, 2008, and put into effect by President Barack Obama in August 2009, was modified in 2010 to expand eligibility for National Guard and reserve veterans and offer benefits for online distance learning, along with increased on-the-job-training options. The bill was later adjusted to pay in-state tuition rates no matter the veteran's residency.

GI BILL AND BUSINESS

Entrepreneurial benefits for veterans have periodically surfaced during wartime. Such benefits took the shape of land grants in the 1700s and 1800s. Later, they evolved into small business and farm loans in the 1900s. The 1944 GI Bill's entrepreneurial insurance and loan guaranty program created 229,245 loans to start small businesses, and an additional 71,158 loans to finance farms. That investment has been credited with massive U.S. economic expansion following World War II. In 2016, the American Legion National Convention passed a resolution seeking expanded opportunity for veterans to use a portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to capitalize small businesses.

ABOVE: *Sean Ricks, president and CEO of Ricks Roasters, right, talks with Justin Garrity, president of Veteran Compost, during the 2nd Annual Veterans Showcase in Washington, D.C.* Photo by Pete Marovich

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ASK THE EXPERT

Thomas Roland, M.D.
Cochlear Medical Advisor

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Q: How do I know a cochlear implant will work for me?

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“Programs for veterans are among the most important federal responsibilities. I am therefore delighted to approve this bill.”

President Ronald Reagan, after signing the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1984, the Montgomery GI Bill

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Act of 2017 – known as the “Forever GI Bill” because it lifted a 15-year deadline to use the benefits for those discharged after Jan. 1, 2013 – was named in honor of the American Legion past national commander from Kansas who worked late into the night during the winter of 1943 in Washington, D.C., assembling the original legislation in pencil on Mayflower Hotel stationery because, as he said at the time, “The burden of war falls on the citizen soldier, who has gone forth, overnight, to become the armored hope of humanity ... The American Legion has not lost faith in the veterans.”

“I think the GI Bill fundamentally changed American society because it opened up the doors of opportunity to veterans, some of whom, perhaps given their backgrounds and their economic status, would have never had the opportunity to do anything beyond serving their country,” explained U.S. Air Force Gen. Les Lyles, chairman of the board at USAA and a member of The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee. “They would never have been paid back, if I can use that term – though ‘paid back’ is a little bit of a misnomer because they didn’t want to be paid back. But the country owed them that sort of tribute, if you will, for what they had done.”

Speaking at a November 2018 hearing, former House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chairman U.S. Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., said his college benefits were vital to his early years and career, with a wife and young child in the mid-1970s, and not much money after two years in the Army Medical Corps. In the hearing, Roe called the 2017 rendition a positive step in the GI Bill journey that “both sides of the aisle can take pride in.” The hearing, however, was to address payment delays due to computer problems with VA, forcing new legislation to protect student veterans from hardships caused by the delays.

Army veteran Michael Duerr, who visited The American Legion’s centennial exhibit “The Greatest Legislation: A Salute to the GI Bill” during the 10th Student Veterans of America National Conference in 2018, said the post-9/11 benefit was a beacon to him in the uncertain transition to civilian life. “Knowing the GI Bill was there for me to continue my academic pursuits was a safety net,” he said. “When I got out of the Army – that kind of shaky time of transitioning – I knew I could go back to school. I was very grateful.”

“The concept of the post-9/11 GI Bill was transformative,” Webb explained. “After 9/11, it should have changed, and we changed it. In concept, it was a mirror of the benefits that our World War II veterans got, shaped to the realities of today. The concept works. We had just gotten away from the concept.”

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to our nation’s military families. They endure sleepless nights, and the daily struggle of caring for children while a loved one is serving far from home ... This legislation will make it easier for our troops to transfer unused education benefits to their spouses and children. It will help us to recruit and reward the best military on the face of the earth. It will help us to meet our responsibilities to those who support our troops every day: America’s great military families.”

President George W. Bush, on signing the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, which included the Post-9/11 GI Bill

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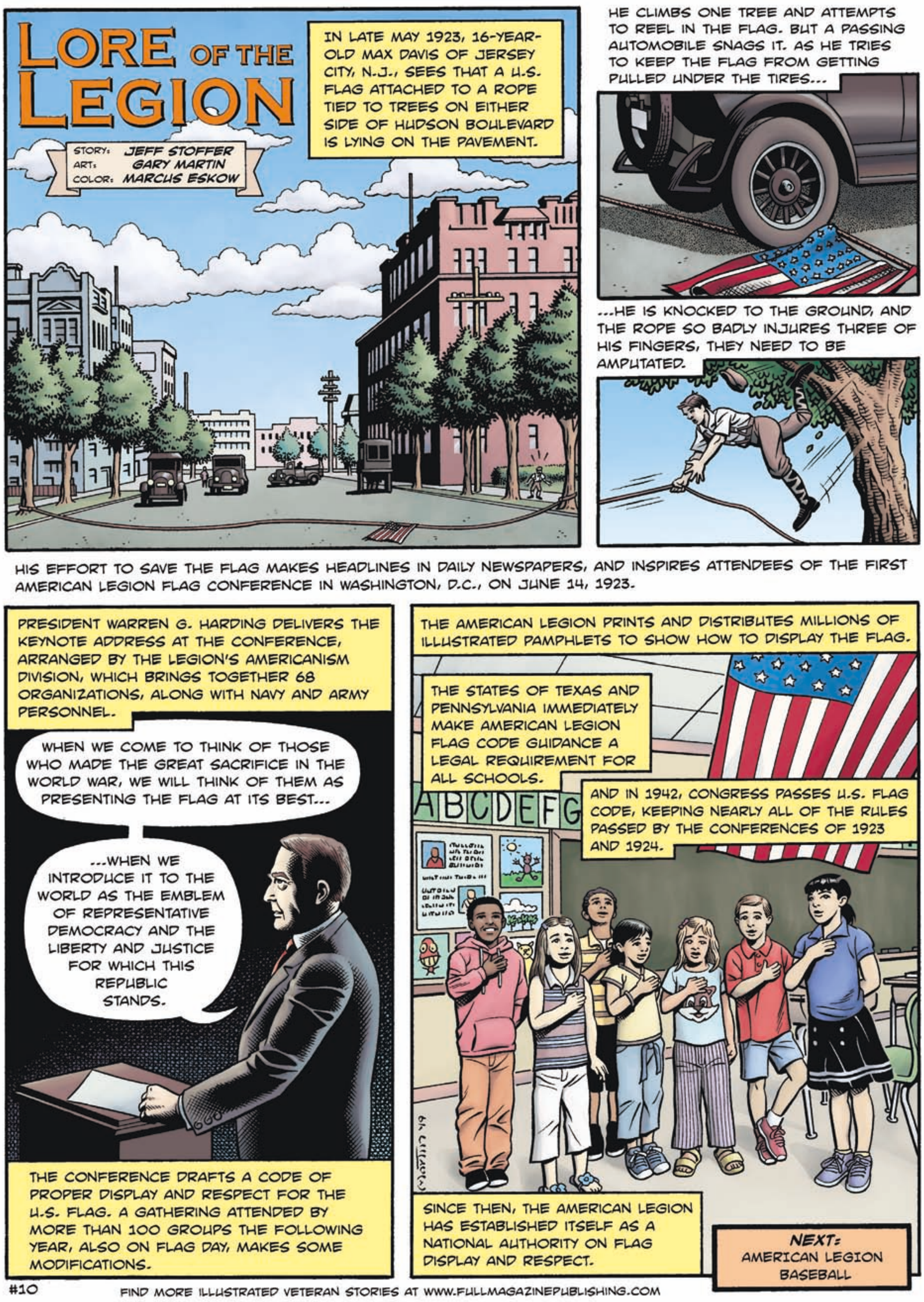
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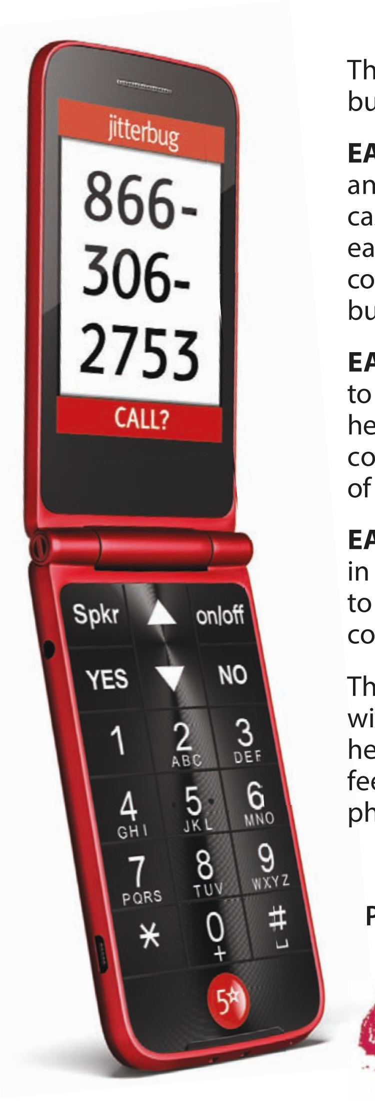

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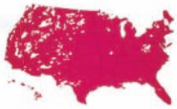

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BOGGED DOWN in the BLUEGRASS

The proposed new Louisville VA hospital is mired in the same old problems – and a legal challenge from the town next door.

BY KEN OLSEN

Fifteen years after a federal commission recommended that VA replace its 1950s-era hospital in Louisville, Ky., veterans worry the new medical center will never materialize. The reasons are familiar to those who have followed other troubled VA construction projects in recent years: endless delays, rising costs and controversy about the location. But Louisville faces another hurdle: a legal challenge from a neighboring community that wants VA to build a cemetery instead of a medical center on the land.

Even if VA wins the lawsuit, Kentucky veterans are concerned that by the time ground is broken, construction costs will have increased to the point that Congress will abandon the project. Their fears are fueled by the legacy of VA hospital projects in Denver, Orlando, Las Vegas and New Orleans that drew the ire of lawmakers after going tens of millions of dollars over budget and running years behind schedule.

Some Louisville residents have simply given up. "I'm going to be dead by the time it's built," says a Vietnam-era veteran who asked not to be named.

That skepticism is widespread. "Some people believe it won't even be built on that site," Mike Moses, commander of the American Legion Department of Kentucky, says of the property east of Louisville that VA selected for its new hospital. "There's also the worry a new VA secretary will come in and say, 'We're going to start over.'"

"Veterans are the ones who are suffering," Moses adds. "They are being denied the best health care they can get in a state-of-the-art-facility."

DOWNTOWN Louisville's Robley Rex VA Medical Center opened on a 47-acre hilltop overlooking the Ohio River in 1951. The 114-bed hospital provides a

ABOVE: *American Legion Department of Kentucky Commander Mike Moses says many of the state's veterans have lost hope that a new VA medical center will be built in Louisville.*

Photo by Schelly Stone

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full range of patient care, education and research programs, according to a 2005 report by the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission. Patients are referred to non-VA physicians in Louisville or other VA medical centers in the region for cardiac surgery, organ transplants, spinal-cord injury treatment and other specialized medical care.

The Robley Rex VA Medical Center, built in 1951, sits atop a 47-acre hill overlooking the Ohio River. Fifteen years after a federal commission recommended VA replace the hospital, the project has stalled due to high costs and a legal challenge. Photo by Schelly Stone

The aging Louisville VA hospital is well-maintained but has daunting fire and safety problems. "These structural issues make it very difficult to create a safe, modern and secure environment," the CARES report said. And there's not enough room at the current site – which is steep and wooded – to fix the problems. CARES instead recommended VA build a new medical center downtown near the University of Louisville Hospital.

There seemed to be momentum behind that proposal. Then-VA Secretary Jim Nicholson hinted that a downtown location would be chosen when he officially announced plans to build the new medical center in 2006. The University of Louisville and downtown business boosters were all on board.

The medical community saw it as an opportunity to improve patient care, says Pat Padgett, executive vice president of the Kentucky Medical Association. "We have essentially three large hospital systems that are based in downtown Louisville: Norton Healthcare, University of Louisville and KentuckyOne. If the VA was going to move, then move downtown so they could work together."

That would have made it easier to transfer VA patients to one of the downtown hospitals for more complex care, Padgett says. And it would have made it easier for physicians and medical residents who also work at other downtown Louisville hospitals to care for their VA patients.

That didn't gain much traction in the veterans community.

"Few of the veterans who go to Robley Rex want to go downtown," says Dan Klein, past commander of Shawnee American Legion Post 193, who was born and raised in Louisville. "It's a hassle. Parking can be an issue. And there's more crime."

Others thought a downtown medical center would quickly lose its veteran focus. "It would have been under the control of the University of Louisville and that would have been the end of it," says Randall Fisher, chairman of The American Legion's national Legislative Commission.

Fisher was a nurse, nurse practitioner and nurse manager during his 32 years at VA hospitals. He then spent 15 years as an American Legion service officer at the VA regional office in downtown Louisville. He shares Klein's concerns about downtown traffic, particularly around University of Louisville and other hospitals, despite the city's efforts to improve the situation since the new VA hospital was proposed.

"Traffic has not improved, but gotten worse with all the new hotels and the rebuilt convention center," Fisher says. "The city has pushed the VA to be downtown forever – but only the city would benefit."

PLAN B Most Louisville-area veterans prefer VA not move Robley Rex because the current location, just off Interstate 71, is easy to access. But former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki opted for a 36-acre parcel east of Louisville that is adjacent to the city of Crossgate. From the moment VA first expressed interest in the Brownsboro Road site, Crossgate – a community of 100 or so single-family homes – made it clear it didn't want the VA medical center next door because of traffic and other issues. VA was so eager to push ahead, however, that it purchased the land five years before completing a mandatory environmental impact review. And when it closed the $12.9 million land deal in July 2012, VA paid $3 million more than the land had been appraised for roughly a year earlier.

"It seems like there were some shenanigans going on there," Klein says. "I think they overpaid for the property." But the Brownsboro Road site wouldn't have remained farmland forever, he adds. Another developer likely would have come along and turned the area into upscale housing.

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA

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The VA Inspector General criticized VA's Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Contracts for failing to obtain the appropriate review appraisal until long after it bought the property, then misleading the House Veterans Affairs Committee about the purchase details.

VA referred questions to the Justice Department because of pending litigation. According to DoJ, the lawsuit is ongoing.

VALUE ENGINEERING Even if critics can get beyond the amount VA paid for the 36 acres near Crossgate, the total project price tag is problematic. In 2015, VA asked a value engineering team to evaluate the plans for the new medical center. A value engineering team brings together experts in architecture, engineering, heating, electrical and other fields to provide a detailed, independent review of large construction projects.

"It's a rigorous and disciplined process," says Rick Smith, a Vietnam veteran and mechanical engineer from Ohio who participated in the review along with about 30 other experts. "Within a week, we identified $140 million in potential savings."

For example, VA could save $8.4 million by buying locally manufactured brick. It could trim $40.5 million in heating and utility costs by reducing ductwork to a more appropriate size, using larger-capacity air handlers and eliminating a central steam plant. VA could save another $9.7 million by turning the old hospital into its Louisville regional office instead of building facilities at the new hospital site.

The cost-cutting recommendations were not well-received by VA. "They were so cold to us you could have frozen meat in that room," Smith says. VA appears to have shelved the study, rather acting on the recommendations. "It highly irritates me that they squander our money like that."

The value engineering team also told VA that its $670 million cost estimate for building the new hospital and regional office was about $300 million too low. VA dismissed that as well. But time has proven the value engineering team right. The projected price tag for the new Louisville medical center and regional office has risen to $925 million.

LEGAL CHALLENGE The value engineering study received little attention outside VA, and other issues have since taken center stage. The city of Crossgate filed a lawsuit in 2018 charging that VA's environmental impact study violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to address all the ways the new medical center and regional office – 1 million square feet of building space – will affect the area. It will serve an estimated 1,500 patients a day, "profoundly impacting the traffic, transportation and land use in the area," according to the suit, filed on behalf of Crossgate and Mayor Kirk Hilbrecht, a Desert Storm Army veteran. Crossgate also alleges that VA paid far too much for the vacant land where the proposed hospital is supposed to be constructed.

Hilbrecht and the city of Crossgate want VA to turn the Brownsboro Road property into an extension of the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery and find another location for the new hospital – if it's built at all.

TRAFFIC JAM Supporters and critics of the new medical center site agree that traffic is going to get a lot worse. "We know it's going to be a traffic nightmare at first," Fisher says. "But Brownsboro Road was the best of all of the sites they had." Turning the existing VA hospital into the regional office headquarters rather than adding those buildings to the new site would significantly reduce the traffic impacts, he adds.

Klein likes the new hospital site.

"We'd rather go there than downtown or some of the other proposed locations," he says. "It's better than the old location in terms of parking."

He views Crossgate's opposition as a case of "not-in-my-backyard" syndrome. "They got their nice houses and now they don't want anyone else out there," Klein says.

VA completed the hospital design in December. Revisions to enhance the pharmacy and the facility's overall privacy should be completed this summer. But the project won't move forward until Crossgate's lawsuit is resolved. The Army Corps of Engineers will oversee construction, because Congress revoked VA's authority to manage large building projects in 2015 after the long-overdue Denver VA was $1 billion over budget.

Traffic misgivings aside, Louisville veterans hope the new hospital will become a reality. "They made the decision," Klein says. "Let's get on with it." More delays will force VA to continue putting money into the old hospital when it's better spent on a new medical center, he adds.

"You've got to compromise and select a new location," Moses says. "They've already spent over a decade with this thing. Let's stop playing around and get it done."

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

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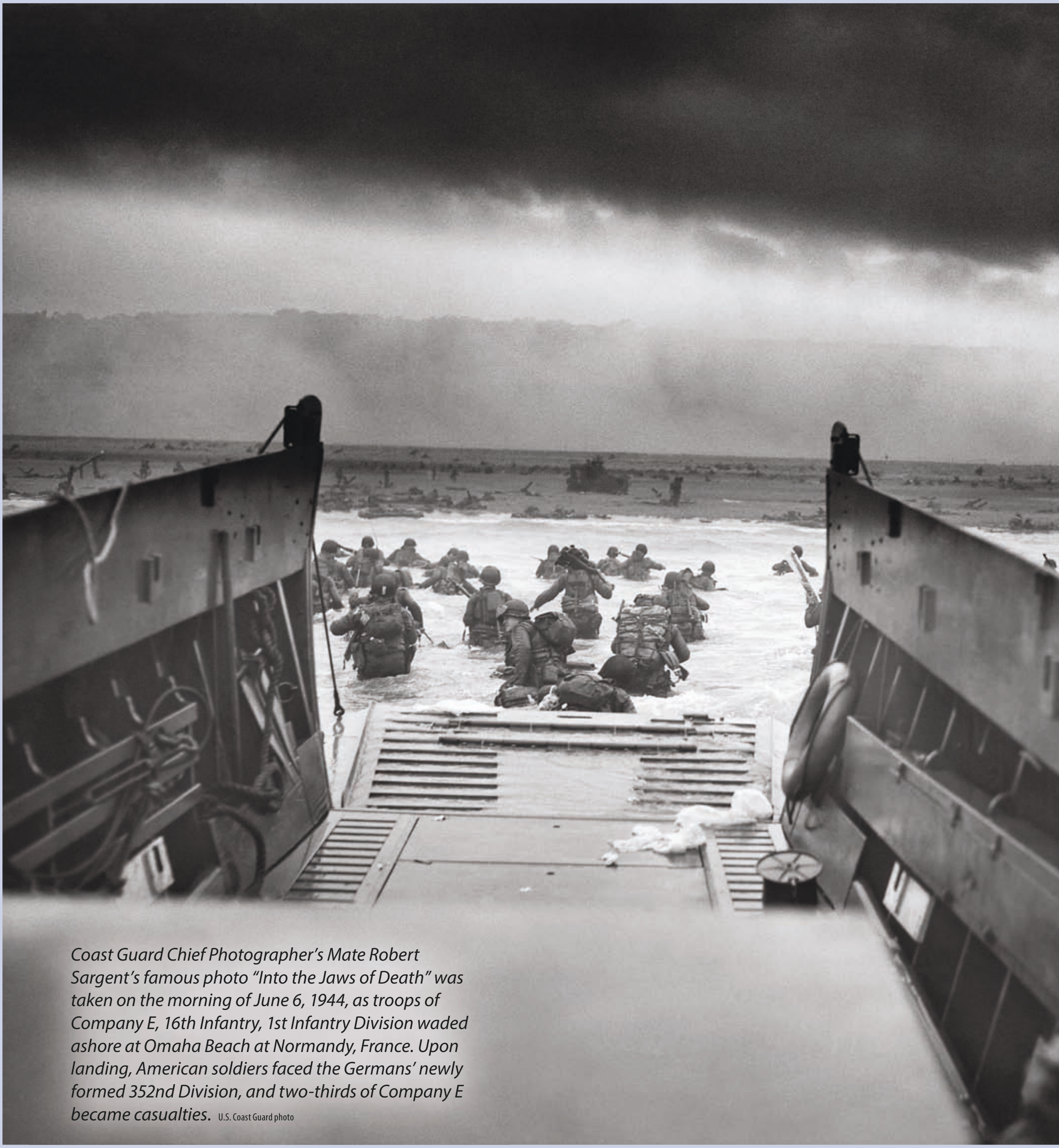

Coast Guard Chief Photographer's Mate Robert Sargent's famous photo "Into the Jaws of Death" was taken on the morning of June 6, 1944, as troops of Company E, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division waded ashore at Omaha Beach at Normandy, France. Upon landing, American soldiers faced the Germans' newly formed 352nd Division, and two-thirds of Company E became casualties. U.S. Coast Guard photo

156,000+ Troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Norway and other Allied nations

5 Beaches along the 50-mile stretch of Normandy coast targeted for landing, with the Allied code names of Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. Omaha was the largest and the costliest; Americans suffered some 2,400 casualties.

6,000 Ships and landing craft

50,000 Vehicles

11,000 Planes

12,004 Total killed, wounded, missing or captured (United States 8,230, United Kingdom 2,700, Canada 1,074)

D-DAY 75

★ JUNE 6, 1944 ★

THE INVASION AT
NORMANDY

> It was something which you just can't imagine if you have not seen it. It was boats, boats, boats and more boats, boats everywhere.

Jacqueline Noel, recalling the British beaches.
She met her future husband on D+4.

> You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.
>
> Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.
>
> But this is the year 1944! The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory!
>
> I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle.
>
> We will accept nothing less than full victory!
>
> Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander

It was the largest amphibious assault in the history of human warfare. Allied forces of the United States, Great Britain and Canada plunged themselves onto the European continent to break Hitler's grip on Nazi-occupied France.

They parachuted into a turbulent night to secure inland positions and establish bases they could protect. Some entered in stealthy but dangerous glider planes, known as "flying coffins" that often splintered to pieces in attempts to land on hedgerow-hemmed fields filled with obstructions known as "Rommel's asparagus." Survivors delivered weapons, supplies and even jeeps to the underarmed paratroopers who had come in ahead of the gliders.

By the morning of June 6, the Higgins boats lurched through enemy fire toward Utah, Omaha, Sword, Gold and Juno beaches. In the first wave was Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., one of The American Legion's most prominent founders. At 56, Roosevelt Jr. had begged command to let him storm Utah Beach. His actions earned him the Medal of Honor mere weeks after he died of a heart attack in Normandy, where he lies today, among heroes who gave their lives to carve a path to liberation, exposure of the Holocaust and victory in the European theater of World War II.

326,000 Allied troops who crossed by June 11, with more than 100,000 tons of military equipment

496,777 U.S. World War II veterans living in 2018

Source: National WWII Museum (New Orleans)

An 82nd Airborne soldier prepares to gather his parachute after a jump commemorating D-Day on the invasion's 40th anniversary. National Archives

THE OPEN DOOR

In 1984, the 82nd Airborne began paying homage to the original D-Day paratroopers.

BY KEITH NIGHTINGALE

Everyone has a dream or fantasy. Mine, for many years, was to jump into Normandy as an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper. I had thought this since reading, as a small boy, a *Life* magazine article on D-Day. Sometimes dreams become reality, and I realized mine on the 40th anniversary of the mission, as the commander of troops for the 82nd Airborne on their first return to Normandy since June 6, 1944.

Having received approval from Maj. Gen. Jim Lindsay for the 82nd to return to Normandy for the anniversary, I began a year of preparing the handpicked soldiers from throughout the division. We established a reading program, as well as historical reviews. Each regimental unit and support element had to study the events and actions of their predecessors. My most personally rewarding task was to interview some key players of the division who were there in 1944. On several occasions they talked to my assembled soldiers, who would retrace their paths. These talks and history lessons transformed this task into a personal quest and homage to those men who had gone before.

Gen. James Gavin, though frail and somewhat hesitant in speech, clearly showed the fire and strength that made him the most revered of combat leaders. He addressed our group directly, said what a wonderful honor it would be to return, and that we were going to be successful on any battlefield because we were Airborne, and there weren't any better soldiers in the world. When Gavin finished, we knew we would go wherever he directed.

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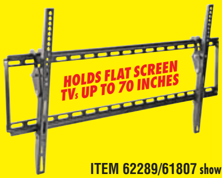

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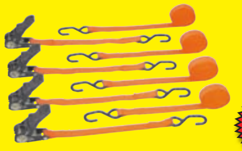

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Later, a veteran from the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Bill Sullivan, told us that his most significant moment came in England when Gavin stood on a jeep hood to address the 505th and said, "I will not send you to Normandy. I will lead you there."

Members of the 82nd Airborne Division listen as retired Army Col. Bob Piper, a World War II veteran, describes the battle that took place in St. Mère-Église. In 1984, the soldiers traveled to Normandy to participate in activities marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day. National Archives

I interviewed Gen. Matthew Ridgway at his home near Pittsburgh. He was in his 90s then and still active, engaged and enthused with life. He recounted training in England, and his confidence in the soldiers and their ability to overcome the worst of circumstances. He addressed North Africa, Sicily, Salerno and Normandy. At his kitchen table, he shed 40 years and spoke with immense pride in those he commanded. For all of his titles, ranks and positions, Ridgeway's time as commander of the 82nd was atop his personal honors list. Looking into his dark eyes, combined with his direct delivery, there was no doubt in my mind that you would do what he told you to do and that it was the right and only answer.

Col. Ben Vandervoort spoke to us on several occasions; he lived relatively nearby in Hilton Head, S.C. He was humble, direct and matter-of-fact. You wouldn't immediately realize he was a war god. He had great character and humanity, as well as a clear vision of what had to be done and how. Any soldier who served with Vandervoort knew that he was very special and made those around him better. He didn't advertise that. He didn't need to.

By late May 1984, our group got on the C-130s and headed to the United Kingdom to begin this voyage of remembrance. Each of the 350 soldiers had his own epiphany and realized the legacy he was tracing. More than one told me, referring to the D-Day veterans we encountered: "We will not fail you."

Our force, commanded by Gen. Ed Trobaugh, assembled at RAF Lyneham, much as the originals did on their day of days. Other than a difference in aircraft – C-130s for C-47s – the scene would have been very familiar to the originals.

Many veterans of the invasion had followed us there and were at the airfield to see us off.

The aircraft were lined on the ramp, doors open, with each stick of fully loaded soldiers sitting under the shade of the wings, their equipment and parachutes in various stages of dress and undress. Ones and twos were lined behind the aircraft on the edge of the grass relieving themselves, an event all veterans said was an accurate reflection of their activities on D-Day eve. Jeeps were running back and forth with crews and messages. Myself, I could close my eyes and imagine what it must have been like. We were suddenly there.

Slowly, with full gear and under a historically incorrect sunny sky, we loaded through the rear ramps and found our places on the red nylon outboards and inboard seats.

I was in the third position on the stick, and the commanding general was at the eighth, where we guessed he would land mid-drop zone. As the airborne commander, I wore a headset connecting me with the pilot and crew. This event was drawing a huge crowd at Ste. Mère-Église.

I talked to my drop zone safety officer, Capt. Dave McNeil, from the drop zone. He indicated that the largest and most significant issue was people on the drop zone, and that the police were only beginning to deal with it.

I was called forward by the pilot just before takeoff. He was an older colonel who shook my hand and introduced himself. He said he had a special request. If it was OK with us, he would like to fly the course with the doors open as they did on the original run. Trobaugh said OK. I gave the pilot a thumbs-up. I had no idea why it would be important.

The engines revved up to takeoff and, with a sudden release, we were rolling down the runway.

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Though the noise and blurred images through the open doors were momentarily disconcerting, they brought a strange peacefulness and isolation to each of us. It was clear this was not an ordinary trip. If anything, we were in a time machine. I looked back on the troops, and each was looking out the doors, immersed in his own thoughts, distilled by all that had led up to this moment.

Before the jump, we briefed our plan and that of the original drop and had a number of Airborne veterans – U.S. and British – talk to us on the ramp. Among them was Vandervoort, my predecessor battalion commander on D-Day, and Lt. Gen. Napier Crookenden, who jumped with the British 5th Parachute Brigade that night. They displayed no bravado or ego, which might have been expected in the light of history. Instead, they joked and made matter-of-fact comments about the great weights they carried and the difficulty they had getting into the aircraft, the problems with relieving themselves once loaded, and confusion about who and what went on which aircraft.

One veteran described an incident where a Gammon grenade went off, destroying an adjacent 82nd aircraft and killing part of the stick on the ground just before takeoff. He said one of the shaken survivors emerged with remnants of people and explosives on his uniform, struggled toward the closest aircraft and was pushed in the door by the ground crew. “He wasn’t going to stay, and we weren’t going to leave him.”

Vandervoort said the 24-hour delay – June 4-5, 1944 – wasn’t wasted on much sleep. Lots of poker, craps, conversation, letter writing, rechecking gear and trying to get to the mess hall and back, eating in the pouring rain. Most of the sleep achieved was under the wings of C-47s in the early evening of June 5. They would pay for that later.

The original invasion aircraft, like our C-130s, took off in almost broad daylight at around 2300 British Double Daylight Saving Time and blended into huge circles until all were airborne, flying in a V of Vs south and east. We followed in their wake.

The veterans stood by the runway and waved at us as we passed. What a flood of memories they must have had, for the first time seeing the true size and magnitude of it all.

During the actual invasion, most jump aircraft had their doors removed prior to takeoff. This permitted the jump masters (the senior officer or NCO on board) to have an unimpeded view of the sea and land below. For Pvt. Bob Murphy, that was virtual daylight because the pathfinders departed at roughly 2200 British Double Daylight Saving Time. For the others, the full moon and receding twilight provided sufficient visual reference to the horizon and the channel below.

Vandervoort, commander of the 2-505, looked out from his position by the open door as the plane reached altitude and leveled off.

As I recall from my interviews, he put it this way: “I looked out, and as far as I could see in front of me, in back of me and off to each side, the sky was filled with aircraft. The V of Vs went to the horizons at all points of the compass .... All I could see was an immense trail of white wakes of the ships pointing toward France, the moon glinting off the barrage balloons tethered to them. I felt I could have walked to France and never gotten my feet wet. I knew then we were going to win this war.”

Gavin: “I saw the immensity of the power we had concentrated for this moment, the focus of all our resources and preparation, and thought to myself there wasn’t a force on earth that could stop us.”

Gen. Maxwell Taylor: “I looked out and was startled at the vastness of the air and sea force all moving steadily to France. It’s one thing to see it presented in a briefing and on paper but quite another to actually see it arrayed. I turned to my aide and told him to look at it and remember the sight; he would never see its like again. I then went to the middle of the aircraft and slept on the floor for a brief time.”

Murphy: “I looked out and said to my buddies, ‘The Germans are in for a hell of a night.’”

As our aircraft ran down the runway with each soldier in his personal world, I closed my eyes and replayed those comments in my mind.

Brilliant English green pastures passed below, then the chalky beach and the blue-black channel with high patches of white Monet-like clouds stretching to the horizon. A golden rising sun burned off the dew from the farm fields. D-Day, for us, was no longer in black and white.

The 250-knot wind coursed easily by the fuselage, enveloping each of us in a sensory canopy of personal reflections. Like me, each was in his own world, taking a trip in which we were well-versed but had never replicated.

We reached flight altitude. I was called on the headphones and asked a second time to go to the cockpit. Bewildered, I struggled there with all my gear. The pilot got out of his chair, extended his hand, looked me in the eye and said, “This is my last flight. I am retiring after this mission as flight lead and from the Air Force Reserve. Forty years

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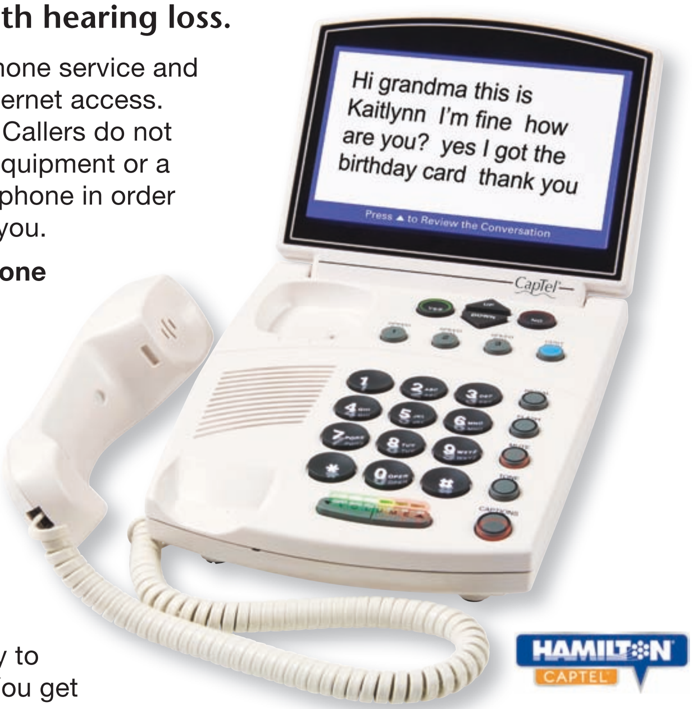
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ago tonight, I was flying a C-47 as flight lead for elements of the 82nd Airborne. Thank you for making this happen. This is one of the greatest moments of my life."

I was speechless but returned his handshake, saluted and said, "Thank you." I returned to my stick with a much clearer understanding of his original request.

The red light came on just before the channel coast. The other jumpmasters and I stood up, hooked up and looked at the sticks. My right foot was hooked in the open frame, and the wind blew briskly by my uniform and equipment. Each soldier in line – inboard and outboard stick, general through private – looked up, anxious and alert, awaiting instructions as they had done 40 years earlier.

The verdant checkerboard fields of Normandy swept by in a blur, and we went through the timeless rituals of jump commands. Stand up. Hook up. Check static lines. Check equipment. Sound off for equipment check. Stand by. The men all knew that not only were they jumping for the sake of history, they were jumping into it.

At the 2-minute warning, I placed both feet flush on the fuselage frame, reached out with my left hand, grasped the wind deflector and leaned out into the rush to confirm the drop zone. I was momentarily transfixed by the warm, humid air and wind-blurred vision. Then the landmarks became crystal clear in my mind. Vandervoort had said he flew his route on the map and aerial photos in his mind 100 times so he could pick out key features and ensure his bearings. This was prescient, because he had the pilot turn off the red light once when he saw the pilot had misread the landmarks. Had he followed the sequence, Vandervoort's stick would have landed miles from their intended drop zone.

In the brilliant morning sun, I had it much easier than Vandervoort, and without ground fire. Clearly distinguishable below were the key 101st Airborne objective towns with their distinctive church towers, Ste. Côme-du-Mont, Ste. Marie-du-Mont, Utah Beach and the critical causeways.

To the north, Omaha Beach and the receding coast toward the British beaches could be seen. Then, suddenly, the patchwork quilt of Norman fields and small villages and bisecting roads appeared. Dead ahead: Ste. Mère-Église, with its dramatic church square. Just in front of it was a small curling stream of yellow smoke marking the drop zone. Clear spot! Thumbs up. Stand in the door!

The loadmaster stood to my rear with his fingers in front of my face, counting the last five seconds. Green light. Go!

We were jumping into a time warp. The first two jumpers were away, and I inserted myself in the column. I watched my chute deploy, straightened out the lines and looked down.

The drop zone was a sea of humanity. Women, children, men, police, soldiers running across the narrow fields. I couldn't see an open spot to steer to and tried to move closest to the smoke. The drop zone was a series of small hedgerow fields designated La Londe that had been theoretically isolated hours earlier by the police. Within a couple of hours of the jump, however, thousands of French citizens converged on the area in a shared, intense desire to see this dramatic return and to touch the successors of those who came before and delivered them from tyranny. Troops who actually participated in the Normandy invasion are treated as gods on earth here, never to be forgotten, by the people they liberated. As surrogates, this first return, *en masse*, was a moment to be treasured.

In the air, I had this vision I always carried, of the Ste. Mère-Église church with its stained-glass window depicting the Airborne soldier suspended, knees raised, as the town burned. I assumed that pose for a moment of homage and then went about my business of looking for a safe spot to land.

Fearing to hurt someone and with no clear spot of ground to see, I tried to twist away from the closest mass but simply slammed into the ground, my parachute collapsing over several families. Still on my back, I was grabbed by several small boys, a man and a woman. The man shook my hand, and the woman, with tears in her eyes, quietly applauded. The boys grabbed my chute and helped me roll it up. I couldn't see any other soldier. They were all surrounded, too. We accepted the heartfelt thanks of those whose parents and grandparents could not perform the same act of gratitude 40 years before.

The 82nd Airborne had returned to France, but in truth, it never left, nor will it. The cemetery at Omaha Beach attests to that, as do those Airborne soldiers who now return annually to Normandy to jump in honor of the originals.

Retired Army Col. Keith Nightingale is a writer, historian and guide on walking tours of the battlefields of the Normandy invasion for active-duty military personnel, including those serving now in the 82nd Airborne Division.

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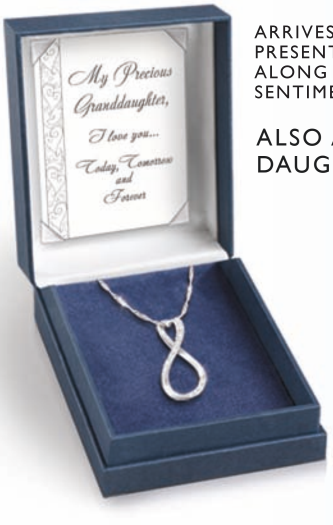

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COMMENTARY

Back in the People's Hands

Americans must rally in support of our constitutional right to protect the flag.

BY PATRICK H. BRADY

Photo by Tommy Martino

For 30 years, The American Legion has been steadfast in its determination to return to the people, by amending the U.S. Constitution, the right to protect Old Glory should they so choose. If success is best defined as going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm, the Legion and its heroic battle for the symbol of all we are is bound to succeed this time. Why now? In three words, President Donald Trump.

The Supreme Court, by a single vote in 1989, amended the Constitution by inserting flag desecration into the Bill of Rights, voiding flag-protection laws across America. It put flag-burning side by side with pornography as protected "speech." It took away from the people the right to protect their flag, a right supported by every court up to 1989. And the court did this in response to a flag-burning by Gregory Johnson, leader of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade.

The flag amendment states, "The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

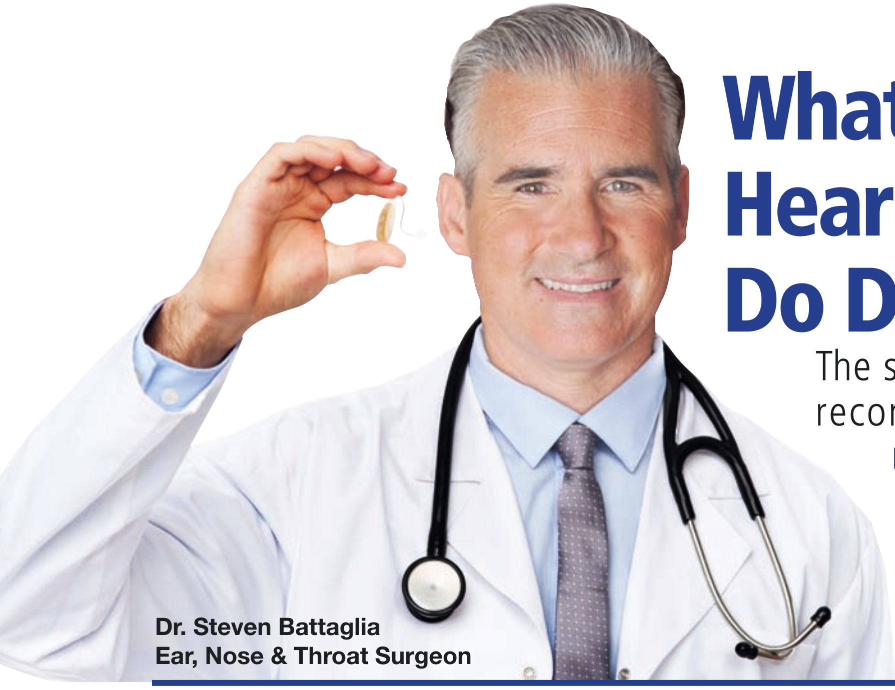
The amendment does not, in fact, protect the flag but simply allows the people to protect it if they so choose. The goal is not to punish flag burners, but to recapture our Constitution. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis suggests an interesting penalty: "Forget jail if you burn the American flag. You'll spend two years in the military. I promise you, you'll be cured of the desire to burn our flag ever again. You'll be waving it, saluting it, or … you'll be lying under it."

The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance pushed this issue to within one vote in 2006. At that time, more than 75 percent of the American people, and every state in the union, supported the amendment.

Why is this important? The U.S. flag represents all that unites us as one nation under God. Never in my lifetime has our Constitution been so under assault as it is now. But those who burn our flag are not a threat to who we are. The threat comes from those who say desecrating the flag is speech, specifically the Supreme Court. Some of the founders, especially Thomas Jefferson, expressed concern that the judiciary, the only unelected life-tenured branch of government, might weaken to the lust for power. They were right. In an effort to immunize the judiciary from the whims of the people, they immunized them from the will of the people, thus allowing usurpation of the governing power of the people.

Jefferson warned that "the germ of dissolution of our Federal Government is in the constitution of the Federal Judiciary – an irresponsible body (for impeachment is scarcely a scare-crow), working like gravity by night and by day, gaining a little today and a little tomorrow, advancing its noiseless step like a thief over the field of jurisdiction until all shall be usurped from the States and the government be consolidated into one."

The flag amendment is about protecting our Constitution, heeding the warning of Jefferson and agreeing with President Abraham Lincoln: "If the



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policy of the government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by the Supreme Court … the people will have ceased to be their own rulers."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower said he made two mistakes, and both of them were on the Supreme Court. Should we heed the words of Jefferson and Lincoln or let these people rule us?

These elite are the same people who believe pornography is protected speech, but prayer is not, and that the Ten Commandments are a threat to the public square. They are horrified, as are vampires, by the cross – clearly not an endorsement of religion but simply a symbol of sacrifice. They believe it is protected speech to fraudulently wear military decorations, even the Medal of Honor. And, of course, you can burn the flag but not on their steps – and on and on.

There is an unending effort in this country to keep the hardworking hands of the people off their Constitution, leaving it in the grip of lawyers and elites. This must end. The flag amendment would be a great step forward in educating the people on who actually owns the Constitution.

The Constitution protects three forms of expression: freedom of speech, the spoken word; the press, the written word; and peaceful assembly. Burning the flag meets none of the criteria in the First Amendment. If the founders meant expression, these three are redundant, and you would have to be bereft of common sense to believe flag-burning is speech. As baseball great Tommy Lasorda said, speaking for common-sense Americans: "Speech is when you talk."

Flag-burning is not speech, period.

The U.S. flag is a symbol, and symbols are indispensable in a democracy. Our gratitude for the great bounty that is America is expressed through symbols: grave stones, obelisks, walls, and the greatest of all symbols, Old Glory. The word "symbol" is from the Greek word meaning "half token," which, when united with its other half, represents something above and beyond itself (think of wedding rings, for example). The other half token of the flag is the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; the flag embodies the values embedded in our sacred Constitution. The legalized desecration of the symbol of the Constitution symbolizes the ongoing desecration of our Constitution.

Our flag is unique. It does not represent a dictator or a party or a geography, but a set of values. It is the shroud for the coffins of our dead servicemembers, veterans and public officials; it is the tissue for the tears of those left behind. Because of its ties to our values, the U.S. flag is the only flag with an anthem and code dedicated specifically to it.

As one who has for many years interacted with students and teachers, I have concluded that the primary purpose of all education in America should be to grow patriots. A democracy cannot survive without a patriotic citizenry. Life has no meaning, a country no future, unless lived for the benefit of future generations. I hear often from teachers that there is no greater aid to inspire patriotism in our youth than the U.S. flag. The outbreak of disrespect by the likes of Colin Kaepernick and Gregory Johnson has had a negative effect on too many young people. What we see among today's youth and elite reveals what we are teaching them.

Better they have as a hero William Carney, a 23-year-old ex-slave who believed he could best serve his God by serving his country in the Civil War. The flag was vital in combat at the time, for communication and direction in battle. When the flag bearer was shot, Carney dropped his rifle and caught the flag before it hit the ground. He then led his fellow soldiers through the battle, enduring shots in the right leg, chest, right arm, left leg and head. When Carney finally dragged himself into camp to the cheers of his fellow soldiers, he said, "I only did my duty. Our flag never touched the ground."

Which brings me to President Trump, who denounced Kaepernick and others who have disrespected our flag. As would be expected, Trump was condemned for attacking freedom of "expression," yet he's on the side of our founders, our Constitution and our people on this one.

Born on June 14, Flag Day, Trump never conducts a rally without praising the splendor, beauty and importance of Old Glory. We have never had a president who is as supportive of our right to protect our flag. Trump has no say in constitutional amendments, but he seems to be begging for someone to do something about those who desecrate our flag. May he rally Americans in support of The American Legion's battle to return to the people their constitutional right to protect Old Glory.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady is a Medal of Honor recipient, former chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance and a member of The American Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee.

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MEMORIAM

PNC Detweiler passes away

Photo by Lucas Carter

William Detweiler, a 53-year member of American Legion Post 307 in New Orleans and American Legion national commander from 1994 to 1995, passed away March 27 at 79.

He served as a captain in the Army Intelligence Corps, performing the role of operations officer at the Army Air Defense Command at Fort Bliss, Texas. After leaving active duty in 1965, he returned to New Orleans, where he joined the Army Reserve and pursued a career in law.

Despite a busy practice, Detweiler found time to serve on various national, state and local veterans and military commissions and committees, including an appointment by President Nixon to the Veterans Administration National Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Committee.

On the American Legion side, Detweiler served as Department of Louisiana judge advocate from 1970 to 1985 and led national commissions and committees, including the Public Relations and Foreign Relations sommissions.

As national commander, Detweiler called for research into health problems reported by Gulf War veterans. “How can we prevent the Persian Gulf illnesses from becoming another Agent Orange-type disaster?” he asked. “The American Legion is keeping an eye on how the government deals with this problem .... We need serious unbiased studies and we need them now.”

On the POW/MIA issue, Detweiler was the first American Legion national commander to visit Vietnam since the war’s end. He said he was told by the Vietnamese deputy defense minister that the issue was a humanitarian one. “If he is sincere,” Detweiler wrote in *The American Legion Magazine*, “now is the time for his nation to act with a humane spirit and release the documentation that we know it has.”

In one of the highest-profile issues during his year as national commander, Detweiler came out openly against a planned Smithsonian exhibit of the B-29 *Enola Gay*, which dropped the bombs that ended World War II in 1945. Detweiler wrote President Clinton that officials insisted on including “highly debatable information which calls into question the morality and motives of President Truman’s decision to end World War II quickly and decisively by using the atomic bomb.”

Detweiler’s demand for a balanced interpretation was met. “We stood up to the revisionist historians,” Detweiler told the 1995 American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis. “Dropping the bombs was proper, and we as a people have nothing to apologize for.”

In recent years, Detweiler served as chairman of the Legion’s TBI/PTSD Committee, calling for new study and treatment of the signature wounds of the war on terrorism: traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. He was a vocal proponent of hyperbaric oxygen therapy and urged research into other alternative treatments.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, Detweiler was a guiding force in getting the the city’s VA medical center rebuilt, serving on the advisory committee for the project’s design team. He was at the new facility’s groundbreaking and grand opening, and is credited with crafting the words engraved at the front entrance: “THE PRICE OF FREEDOM CAN BE SEEN WITHIN THESE WALLS.”

Detweiler is survived by his wife Maureen, two sons, two daughters and six grandchildren.

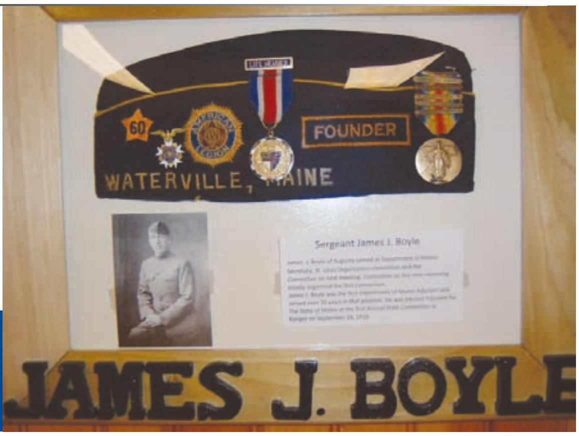
In a video at **legion.org/legiontv**, Detweiler reflects on his year as national commander and how the New Orleans veterans community came together after Hurricane Katrina.

– Steven B. Brooks

CENTENNIAL

Post 51, Oakland, Maine

On display in the hall of Decker-Simmons American Legion Post 51 are the cap and other possessions of James Boyle, one of the post’s founders and first adjutant of the American Legion Department of Maine, a position he filled for 30 years. Gary Grant, Post 51’s current commander, calls the cap “one of the most treasured artifacts of this post.”



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HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

WWI Centennial Commission seeks more stories of American Legion post namesakes

The work of the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission continues, with ongoing projects focused on remembrance of the war and its aftermath – including one that tells the stories of doughboy namesakes of American Legion posts.

In 2018, the commission put out a call for information about American Legion posts named for World War I veterans. According to David Hamon, the commission's veterans service organization (VSO) and military director, he's received more than 260 submissions.

"It has been a moving and inspiring experience working with American Legion posts across the United States who shared the history and stories of veterans who served and sacrificed during the Great War, later to be remembered by having Legion posts named after them," Hamon says.

He appreciates the post historians, commanders and other officers who provided information and physical materials for these stories, which are shared through various centennial commission platforms, including newsletters, a podcast and more. Among the doughboys profiled:

- **Sgt. Frederick Withoft, American Legion Post 76, Fort Valley, Ga.** Between 1918 and 1920, Spanish influenza infected a staggering 500 million people, a third of the world's population at the time. In the final months of the war, the flu spread from the front to tightly packed civilian centers and back again. Withoft was serving with the 28th Division in Europe when he contracted pneumonia; he died Feb. 25, 1919. Post 76 was chartered that year.
- **Sgt. John Berg, American Legion Post 976, Crosby, Pa.** Berg was born in Kalsvit, Sweden, in 1889, and his family emigrated to the United States four years later. Berg enlisted in the Army on April 3, 1918, and saw continuous service through the end of the war. He fought in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives, earning the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre. Berg died of cancer July 29, 1956. Post 976 was first chartered in 1957.

The World War I Centennial Commission is still collecting American Legion post stories; if your post is named for a Great War veteran, contact Hamon at **david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org** or **(540) 379-8584**. A microsite is designed specifically for members of military and veterans service organizations at **ww1cc.org/veterans**.

Meanwhile, the commission is working to build a national World War I memorial in Washington, D.C. American Legion posts have the opportunity to donate to the memorial in the name of their World War I namesakes. Visit **ww1cc.org/donate**, or send a check to U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, Attn: David Hamon, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 123, Washington, DC 20004.

"As Americans, we must never forget the doughboys and their war," Hamon says. "Let's build this memorial!"

EDUCATION

Transfer benefits while on active duty

MY GI BILL
VETERANS & EDUCATION
BY VALERIE HEFFNER

Q: *While deployed to Iraq, I transferred my Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to my children. My daughter applied and was granted nine months of benefits. My son applied but never received his benefits, since he decided to quit college. He has resumed his education but has not applied for benefits. My daughter just enrolled in college again and was told she may not be entitled to benefits since I am no longer in the military. I was discharged from the Army Reserve at the rank of major in 2012. Are my son and daughter entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits?*

A: The request to transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to your children must have been made while serving as an active member of the military. Since you were on active duty at the time, they may still be entitled to receive benefits. Have them apply at **va.gov**. DoD will determine if they meet the criteria.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. ***askvalerie@legion.org***

EMBLEM SALES

Legion posts earn credit through Flag Rewards program

American Legion Post 44 in Newburgh, Ind., made the No. 3 spot in The American Legion's Flag Rewards program last year, earning $400 in Emblem Sales merchandise credit to spend in 2019. The post will purchase more flags using the credit, selling them in the community and donating all proceeds to the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program.

More than 1,900 posts participate in the Flag Rewards program, receiving a 10-cent credit for each dollar spent on the purchase of U.S. flags from Emblem Sales. Purchases include those made by the post, as well as post members, friends, neighbors, local schools and businesses.

Buckey Honaker, past Post 44 commander, created a flyer listing sizes and costs for U.S., state and POW/MIA flags available for purchase. On the back is information about OCW and how proceeds from flag sales benefit ill and wounded veterans. Honaker says Post 44 delivers flags and removes old ones for proper disposal. If he sees a flag flying at a home, he leaves a flyer on the front door.

To get started in the Flag Rewards program, post adjutants can register their posts online at **emblem.legion.org/flag_rewards.asp**. Once registered, posts are encouraged to organize a Flag Rewards committee that has a flag officer and includes Legion Family members. The committee should identify ways to obtain flag customers and best utilize the flag credit.

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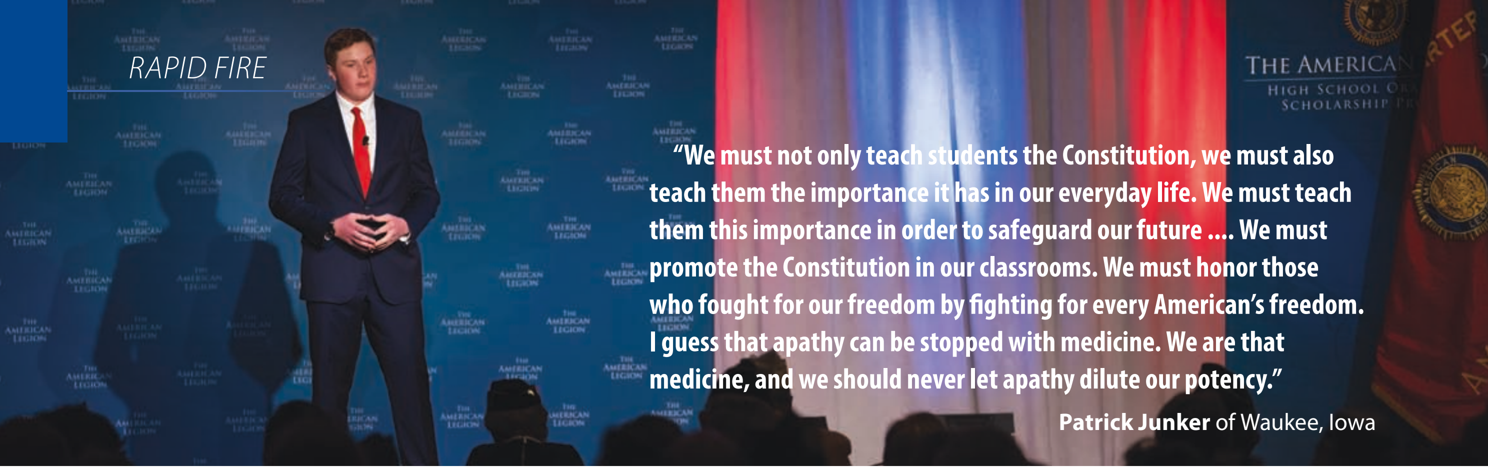

> “We must not only teach students the Constitution, we must also teach them the importance it has in our everyday life. We must teach them this importance in order to safeguard our future .... We must promote the Constitution in our classrooms. We must honor those who fought for our freedom by fighting for every American’s freedom. I guess that apathy can be stopped with medicine. We are that medicine, and we should never let apathy dilute our potency.”
>
> **Patrick Junker** of Waukee, Iowa

ORATORICAL

Iowa teen wins 82nd Legion Oratorical championship

High school junior Patrick Junker of Waukee, Iowa, placed first in The American Legion’s 82nd annual National Oratorical Contest on April 7 in Indianapolis, winning an $18,000 scholarship. His victory was a significant comeback after last year’s contest, when Junker did not advance past the quarterfinal round. The experience gave Junker renewed confidence and determination, and led him to write this year’s oration: “The Spread of Constitutional Apathy and How to Quarantine It.”

Junker’s inspiration for his winning speech came from his U.S. government class, where he observed that many of his peers knew little and cared even less about the Constitution and its purpose. He was sponsored by Post 403 in Van Meter, Iowa, where his father, Vincent, is commander.

Caleb Maue of Homer Glen, Ill., a homeschooled junior sponsored by Post 1080 in Joliet, placed second and received a $16,000 scholarship. Eden Carnes of Friendsville, Tenn., a homeschooled freshman at the Disco Institute sponsored by Post 70 in Lenoir City, placed third and received a $14,000 scholarship.

Junker will attend Hawkeye Boys State this summer and plans to attend West Point after he graduates high school next year. He will join other American Legion youth program champions at the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis in August for special recognition.

– Cameran Richardson

Watch the winning orations online: ***legion.org/legiontv***

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CAREERS

Military-to-civilian transition résumés

THE JOB FRONT
BY WENDY S. ENELOW

Résumé writing for transitioning military personnel is a complex process, and the most important thing to consider is your objective. Job objectives drive everything you write, how you write it and where you present it in your résumé.

Most transitioning military personnel are looking at two different objectives. Some will look for a position with a contractor where military experience is critical. Others search for opportunities in corporate America, and this will most likely require that you present your experience in a way that makes sense to people in the business community.

Follow these best practices to write a modern résumé that will you get noticed and hired:

- **Use the "right" format.** There are résumé formats that focus on experience, training and education, and skills and qualifications. Once you have identified your career objective, select the format that will allow you to highlight that which is most relevant to your objectives.
- **Use the "right" keywords.** Use the language of the job and the industry you are pursuing, which is not necessarily what you have done in the past. Be certain to highlight keywords that are appropriate to your objectives. If your military background has been in procurement, that's great for a government contractor. Conversely, use civilian keywords like "purchasing" and "supply chain management" to relate your experience to the corporate market.
- **Create a powerful career summary.** The career summary at the beginning of your résumé will determine how prospective employers perceive you. Be certain that your qualifications and notable "extras" (e.g., languages, security clearances, tech skills, honors and awards) are prominently highlighted. If targeting military/government, mentioning your military service is great. If targeting outside that arena, focus on experience and not the environment in which it was acquired.
- **Sell your success.** Résumé writing is sales, pure and simple. You have a product to sell – yourself – and you need to be sure to highlight all the features and benefits of that product: skills, experiences and achievements. Focus heavily on successes, from small ones to significant milestones. Organizations want to hire talented individuals who make important contributions.

Follow these four strategies to create a résumé filled with memorable content and presented in a format that works for human readers and electronic résumé-scanning systems.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of "Modernize Your Résumé: Get Noticed ... Get Hired" and "Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions."

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

Victory Field to host Legion Family night

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On Saturday, Aug. 24, the Indianapolis Indians (Triple-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates) will host the Louisville Bats (affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds) during American Legion Family Night at Victory Field in downtown Indianapolis, near the Indiana Convention Center. National Commander Brett Reistad will throw out the first pitch at approximately 7:05 p.m. Tickets range from $7 to $13. The deadline to purchase discounted tickets is Aug. 24, or until they sell out. Go to **legion.org/convention/resources** to find out how to order.

TOUR OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE

Lew White Tours is offering several options for touring Indianapolis and the surrounding area during the 101st National Convention, including a shuttle to take a self-guided tour of American Legion National Headquarters. Read the July issue of *The American Legion Magazine* for a complete list of opportunities.

legion.org/convention/resources

UPDATED HOTEL INFORMATION

The hotel listings at **legion.org/convention/resources** include an updated link for the Hilton Indianapolis, the host hotel for the American Legion departments of Arizona, Indiana and New Jersey.

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THE GREAT WAR 100

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

‘You can’t realize the effect that army life … has had on me’

Editor’s note: *Throughout the Great War’s centennial,* The American Legion Magazine *has published excerpts from the letters of D.B. “Bernard” Ryan of Albion, N.Y., who served as an infantry officer and helped found American Legion Sheret Post 35 in 1919.*

PARIS, JUNE 6, 1919

Dear Mother,

For several causes our school course is petering out. In the first place the direction wasn’t very attentive and with the best lecturers at the beginning of the course interest dropped toward the end. We are to have examinations next week. I expect that they will be of a very general nature and not very difficult. Well, I think that very few have worked very hard but that we all have received a lot of practical good from being here these four months. I know that in retrospect I will see it very happily. Only now I am constantly anxious to get home and get to work. And goodness knows what that work will be. I must settle down.

You can’t realize the effect that army life, followed by the gay life of Paris, has had on me. And it has affected nearly everyone the same way. Perhaps, too, the army has stirred a great many to ambitions that they never had before and never would have had otherwise.

Love, Son

POSTSCRIPT: When my father got home from “over there,” he bought the law library and office furnishings of the late Albion attorney Tom Kirby. He then moved into Kirby’s former office, two rooms on the second floor at 4 East Bank St. in Albion. A sign announcing BERNARD RYAN ATTORNEY AT LAW was mounted at the foot of the building’s long stairway up from Bank Street.

It was still a world in which on Friday night you could board a Pullman car in Albion, some 400 railroad miles northwest of New York City, sleep comfortably in a berth, get off Saturday morning in Grand Central Terminal, and make the reverse trip on Sunday night. For a couple of years, Dad frequently made that weekend excursion, for two purposes. First, he was working with some men led by Maj. Bill Deegan, who was credited with having brilliantly managed the task of transporting to France, and home again, the more than 1 million members of the American Expeditionary Force. The small group of veterans was organizing and launching The American Legion. (When I was baptized newly-born in December 1923, Deegan became my godfather.)

Second, Dad was seeing the former YMCA entertainer Harriet Fitts, who was living with her parents at 440 West End Ave. They married June 22, 1921.

In the following nine years, the couple produced four sons. They participated as members of the Democratic Party in state and national politics, including a very active role in helping secure the 1932 nomination of Franklin D. Roosevelt for the presidency. They developed a lifelong friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt; on several occasions during FDR’s campaign she stayed overnight in our home.

On Jan. 15, 1930, Roosevelt appointed Bernard Ryan to a judgeship on the New York State Court of Claims. Thirty-one years later, following successive reappointments, Judge Ryan retired as presiding judge of the court.

– Bernard Ryan Jr.

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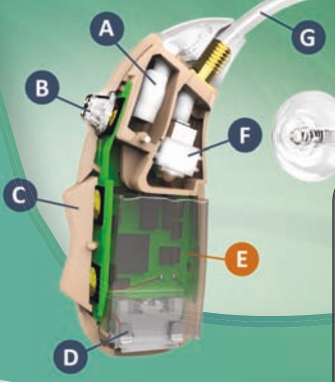

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Four ways to start saving today

FOCUS ON FINANCES

J.J. MONTANARO

Saving can be easy. With just a little bit of work, figuring out how to pay less – or not at all – for specific goods and services is not that difficult. Just Google "save money," and you will be inundated with solid suggestions. Incorporating some of those ideas into your life can be a game changer.

I say "can" because I think the more challenging task is using the "found" money to boost your balance sheet. Reflect on those times when you made good decisions, spent frugally or flat-out abstained without seeing tangible positive results. The struggle is real.

The magic happens when you turn your hard work, discipline and restraint into meaningful change. Here's a four-step approach to take your savings game to the next level.

- **Identify the savings.** Are you skipping soda and opting for water? Saving gas by carpooling? Canceling cable? Packing your lunch? Identify what you did and how much you saved. Be sure to log your savings, either electronically or on paper.
- **Establish a separate holding account/location.** My immediate thought is to set up a new savings account and nickname it "financial good." However, there might be a need for a place to stash some hard currency. So, along with a trusty savings account, figure out how you will sock away the cold hard cash that is the result of your savings labor.
- **Regularly transfer funds to a holding account.** Whether you are stuffing an envelope with cash, dropping change into a jar or tapping "transfer" on your phone to slide money into your new savings account, this is the key step in the process. Ideally, this step happens in close conjunction with the act that allowed you to free up the money.
- **Create a redeployment strategy and routine.** How often you gather up your savings and use it to pay down debt, save or invest is up to you. A month is long enough that you should have accumulated a good bit. Putting it to work should offer positive feedback that motivates you to keep going.

This is not about doing something new; instead, it's about being more purposeful in what you're already doing. End your catch-and-release program and work both elements of the savings game: saving ... and saving.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

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* Every patient is given a Patient Satisfaction Survey shortly after treatment. Responses to the 11-question survey are aggregated to determine patient satisfaction with the delivery of treatment.

^ Quality of Life Survey data measured the patient's self-assessed quality of life and measurable quality of improvement at three months of COPD and ILD patients.

How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280,** e-mail **reunions@legion.org** or submit information via our website, **www.legion.org/reunions.**

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year.** Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280** or e-mail **reunions@legion.org.**

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to ***The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

93rd Bomb Grp, Dearborn, MI, 10/10-14, John Marx, (412) 327-1909, 109clearview@gmail.com; **366th SPS K-9 (Da Nang AB, Vietnam),** Memphis, TN, 10/3-5, Doug Greenough, (337) 354-5644, douggreenough@camtel.net; **446th Bomb Grp,** Colorado Springs, CO, 6/12-16, Mary Nell Roos, (804) 966-1445, jmnroos@verizon.net; **483rd Air Police Sqdn (Ashiya, Japan),** Fredericksburg, VA, 9/17-20, Frank White, (540) 371-0366, fmwhit@cox.net; **485th Tact Msl Wing,** Corning, NY, 8/8-10, Chuck Hults, (607) 331-7138; **502nd Tact Cntl Grp (Korean War) – 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th AC&W Sqdns,** Branson, MO, 9/14-17, Bill Aylward, (703) 715-0880, waylward1@verizon.net; **AC-47 Spooky Gunships,** Colorado Springs, CO, 9/4-8, Dale White, (903) 491-1131, dalendee71@msn.com; **AC-119 Gunship Reunion – Shadows and Stingers, Air Crew, Ground Crew, Support Crew, 71st, 17th & 18th SOS, Maint Support Sqdns & AC-47 Puff the Magic Dragon,** Salt Lake City, 9/3-10, Chuck Williams, (703) 624-6995, chuckhole@earthlink.net; **Opn Safeside & 820th Base Def Grp,** Valdosta, GA, 11/6-10, Bobby Le Fever, (229) 257-8237, robert.le_fever.2.ctr@us.af.mil; **SAC MSET,** Austin, TX, 9/10-13, Ron Campbell, (512) 924-3124, kcam1959@att.net; **USAF Firefighters,** Reno, NV, 9/19-22, Ed Ballas, (775) 345-5376, eab943@aol.com

ARMY

1/77th Armor Bn, Frankenmuth, MI, 7/11-14, Bob Basner, (989) 280-2387; **1st Bn 246th Armor,** Decatur, MI, 10/12, Gary Sternaman, (517) 262-7108, adjutantgary@gmail.com; **1st Trans Co (Truck),** Hardy County, WV, 9/6-9, T. Denney, (304) 530-7546; **2/8th Mech Inf 4th Div (Vietnam),** San Diego, 10/6-9, Bill Hammack, (619) 302-3846, billhammack48@gmail.com; **3rd Bn 1st Inf Rgt 11th LIB Americal Div,** Columbus, GA, 7/25-28, James Coe, (352) 494-2296, jimandcarol@bellsouth.net; **3rd Bn 8th Inf (Vietnam),** Las Vegas, 10/1-3, Steve Edmunds, (949) 294-6981; **4th Bn 9th Inf Rgt (Manchu),** St. Louis, 9/18-21, Bob Lannon, (317) 745-4287, bobl99@hotmail.com; **4th Inf Div,** Springfield, MO, 8/19-25, Joe Carter, (660) 247-0936, josephcarter50@icloud.com; **5th Bn 42nd FA (Vietnam, 1967-1972),** Louisville, KY, Chuck Teague, (502) 937-7780, redleg6@iglou.com; **7th Inf Div (All Units),** Frankfort, KY, 9/9-13, Randy Perry, (715) 536-7915; **39th Eng Bn Co,** Milwaukee, 9/25-29, Bill Ray, (817) 239-0787, bill39th@sbcglobal.net; **65th Cbt Eng 25th Inf Div,** Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 10/7-11, Ken Dixon, (706) 503-1106, ken_dixon@yahoo.com; **77th FA Rgt,** San Antonio, 9/10-15, Dave Morehead, (352) 483-6083, davemoreheadrealtor@gmail.com; **101st Abn Div,** Colorado Springs, CO, 8/21-25, Larry Marty, (719) 355-9897; **106th Inf Div,** Providence, RI, 9/4-8, Wayne Dunn, (410) 409-1141, waynedunn@comcast.net; **187th AHC (Blackhawks, Crusaders, RatPack),** Austin, TX, 11/10-14, Jim Henry, (703) 319-1211, jim951@gmail.com; **205th Support Bn, All Cos,** Coon Rapids, MN, 8/18, Jerry Charles, (763) 234-1376, chrisjerr@msn.com; **504th MP Bn,** Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, 9/12-14, Jacky Warren, (334) 863-8130, jwarren@teleclipse.net; **629th & 178th Ord Supply Co (Qui Nhon, Vietnam),** Colorado Springs, CO, 9/22-29, Gary Matthews, (712) 485-2422, gmatt41347@aol.com; **864th Eng Bn (Pacemakers) & Attached Units,** Bettendorf, IA, 9/25-29, Steve Sattinger, (253) 905-3744, ssattinger@hotmail.com; **Aerial Rocket Arty Assn,** San Diego, 9/11-15, Herbert Hirst, (503) 647-4600, hirst@q.com; **ASA,** Huntsville, AL, 9/27-29, Joe Connelly, (856) 939-4690, mrcon2@comcast.net; **ASA Chitose, Japan,** Hyannis, MA, 9/25-28, Roy Gettz, (321) 259-7039, asachitoseassn@att.net; **ASA Baumholder, Germany,** Ithaca, NY, 9/15-18, Robert Sperling, (315) 866-4325, rasperli@twcny.rr.com; **Charlie Btry 2nd & 17th FA (Vietnam),** Branson, MO, 8/16-19, Jeff Wilcox, (616) 581-9659, wilcoxjsw1@att.net; **Coffey Bks (1969-1970),** Ludwigsburg, Germany, 10/1-4, Warren Schloesser, (570) 253-3745, whschloesser@hotmail.com; **Criminal Investigation Div Agents (CIDAA),** Newport News, VA, 9/18-21, Charles Cooper, (678) 994-9915, cchas19@att.net; **F Co 40th Armor Turner Tankers, Berlin Bde,** Branson, MO, 9/3-6, William Shea, (785) 341-6683, bshea@ksu.edu; **MACV Teams 60 & 65 (SaDec Province & 9th ARVN Div),** Charleston, SC, 10/21-25, Mike Burke, burke6766@gmail.com; **Nat'l Counter Intel Corps,** Chattanooga, TN, 10/3-6, Jerry Burns, (423) 791-3115, gbncica@gmail.com; **Noncom Officer Candidates,** Columbus, GA, 10/4-9, Scott Guptill, (503) 657-9674, hscott.guptill@gmail.com

COAST GUARD

***Burton Island* WAGB 283,** Portland, ME, 9/23-27, Doug Huckins, (831) 402-2883, jdhuck@att.net

JOINT

CAP (Combined Action Program) Vietnam (1965-1971), Washington, 11/7-11, Larry Gruttemeyer, larrygruto311@gmail.com; **HAWKER Msl Air Def Vets (ADA, AADC, LAAM, LAAD),** Charleston, SC, 10/17-20, Francesca Drips, (417) 334-5678, francesca@militaryreunionsplus.com

MARINES

1st Bn 1st Mar (Vietnam), San Diego, 10/19-23, Sam Verdeja, (959) 303-1534, samuelverdeja@yahoo.com; **Fox Co 2nd Bn 9th Mar,** Grand Rapids, MI, 6/20-23, Wally Nalepa, (708) 340-5372, wallynalepa@yahoo.com; **Kilo 3/7,** Nashville, TN, 9/12-16, Bill Gerke, (631) 433-8575, msggerke@aol.com; **Lima Co 3rd Bn 1st Mar/Bravo 1st Bn 11th Mar (Vietnam),** San Diego, 9/5-7, Jim Snyder, (951) 201-5133, lima31reunion@gmail.com; **Mar AB Sqdns 49,** Earlville, MD, 9/7, Chuck McGarigle, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net; **Mar Det/Bks Bermuda,** Harrisburg, PA, 9/15-19, Dennis McDonald, (717) 939-7841; **TBS Class 5/74 Echo Co,** San Diego, 10/4-6, Dan Franklin, (703) 660-9713, dkfranklin@yahoo.com

NAVY

***Antietam* CV/CVA/CVS 36,** Buffalo, NY, 9/15-18, Ken Anderson, (563) 387-7604; ***Beale* DD 471,** Bay City, MI, 9/12-15, LeRoy Thurn, (320) 233-7340, ldtretired@frontier.com; ***Belknap* DLG/CG 26,** Mobile, AL, 10/16-20, Bill Staley, (336) 202-1160, goodstuff003@triad.rr.com; ***Billfish* SSN 676,** Pigeon Forge, TN, 8/25-28, John Martin, (301) 689-5070, jmmartin622@yahoo.com; ***Brown* DD 546/*Bradford* DD 545,** Rapid City, SD, 9/25-28, Fred Korzekwa, (317) 578-7736, korzekwaf@sbcglobal.

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IN SEARCH OF

2nd Gen Hosp (Landstuhl, Germany, 1974-1978) – Psych Unit Staff, Ward 1AB, Bill Pierce, (435) 896-3382, bpiercerucd@gmail.com

2nd Msl Bn 82nd Arty (Harvey Bks, Kitzingen, Germany, 1961-1963), Mike Detorie, (443) 825-6239

3rd Plt Charlie Co 2nd Bn (Mech) 2nd Inf 1st Inf Div (Vietnam, 1969-1970), John Culwell, (602) 309-0765 johnculwell@hotmail.com

14th Trans Bn (AM&S)(GS) (Nha Trang & Tuy Hoa/Phu Hiep, Vietnam, 1965-1972), Dan Quackenbush, (315) 436-0498, quack0711@twcny.rr.com

79th Trans Co (DS) (Qui Nhon & Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, 1965-1972), Art Harrison, (440) 668-0019, jam1996min@aol.com

82nd MP Co (Fort Bragg, NC, 1970-1971), J.B. Anderson, (304) 208-0365, jbsworld2011@gmail.com

335th Trans Co (DS) (Chu Lai & Dong Ba Thin, Vietnam, 1965-1971), Tom Peterson, (316) 650-8822, gthmspeterson@gmail.com

339th Trans Co (DS) (Nha Trang & Tuy Hoa/Phu Hiep, Vietnam, 1962-1968), Ralph Frank, (352) 527-9319, rf339ds@gmail.com

540th Trans Co (GS) (Qui Nhon, Vietnam, 1965-1971), Wayne Gallant, (916) 543-4856, wayne.gallant@sbcglobal.net

604th Trans Co (DS) (Pleiku, Vietnam, 1966-1973), Ken Gurbisz, (908) 489-0806, gurbisz@verizon.net

608th Trans Co (DS) (Dong Ba Thin, Vietnam, 1967-1972), Tim McElhinney, (390) 977-9800, tmcelhinney5197@hotmail.com

610th Trans Co (GS) (An Khe & Da Nang, Vietnam, 1966-1972), Carl Woods, (620) 842-2180, carlewoods1948@yahoo.com

Atsugi Flyers Baseball & Basketball (1956-1959), Bob Hipsher, (864) 366-0822, 100 Pineview St., Abbieville, SC 29620

B Co 23rd Inf Rgt 2nd Inf Div (Battle of the Bulge), Art Guggemos, (320) 485-2631, guggemosar@gmail.com

Belknap DLG/CG 26 (1964-1995), Ted Hetherington, (805) 218-9025, bowtied@aol.com

HHB 1st Bn 8th Arty 25th Inf (Binh Duong Province, Vietnam, 1968), G.P. Whitfield, garywhitfield750@gmail.com

Nouasseur AB, Morocco, Base Baseball (1958), Basketball (1958-1959) & Softball Teams (1959), John "Bud" Clay, (575) 388-1528, clayb57@hotmail.com

TAPS

James C. Corner, Dept. of Florida. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2008-2013.

Peter C. Demro, Dept. of Florida. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1974-1977.

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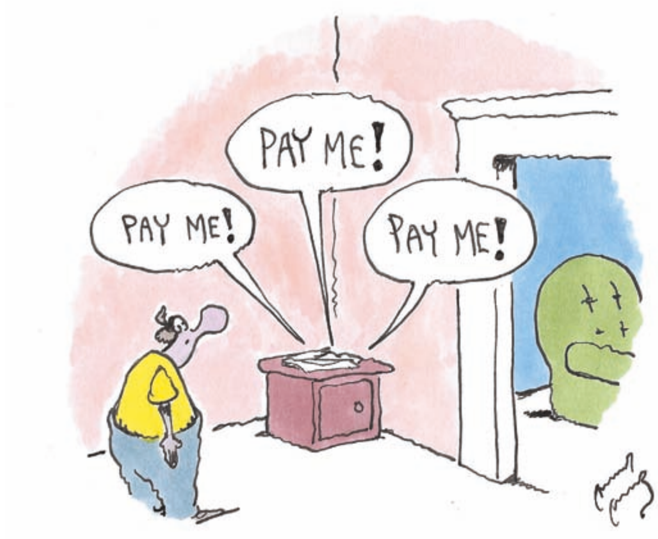
It's important to obey the laws of grammar. After all, rules is rules.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO if you're attacked by a group of clowns? Go straight for the juggler.

SOMEDAY my ship will come in. And with my luck, it'll probably smash right into my dock.

THE MAN was an eloquent trial attorney. He graduated from law school *magna cum loudmouth*.

WE JUST GOT A FAX. At work. We didn't know we had a fax machine. The entire department just stared at it. I poked it with a stick.


PAY ME!
PAY ME!
PAY ME!

Smart bills

I WAS BRUSHING my teeth when my squad leader barged in. He was holding a toothbrush, which he used to scrub under the rim of a toilet.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

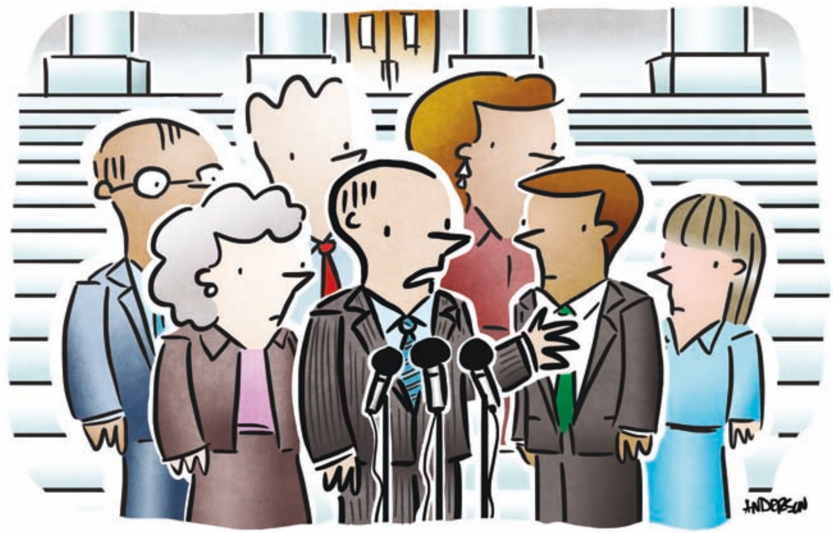
"Hazing the new guy," he said.

"You do know that he could get ill from the bacteria on the toilet."

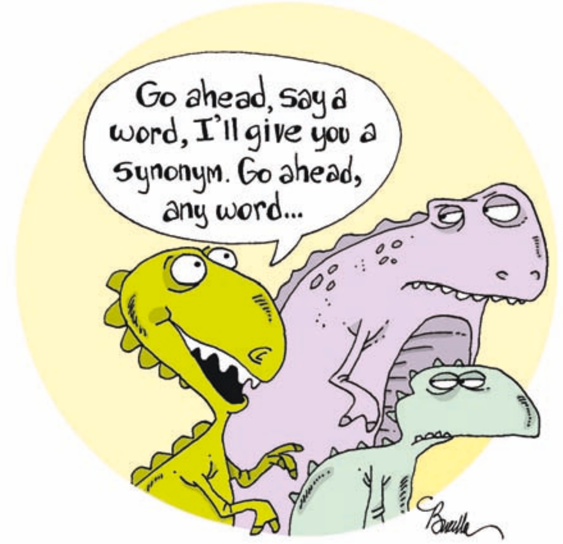
His reply: "You didn't."

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Carr, as published in Reader's Digest's "Humor in Uniform"

Do you have a funny military-related anecdote? To share with Reader's Digest, visit **rd.com/submit.** Remember to include your American Legion post name and number.



"I haven't decided if I'm staunchly in favor or staunchly opposed. But rest assured, however I vote, it will be staunchly."


Go ahead, say a word, I'll give you a synonym. Go ahead, any word...

The other dinosaurs couldn't stand the Thesaurus.

A MAN was driving when he noticed the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for speeding, even though he knew he wasn't. Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly. Again the camera flashed.

Thinking this was funny, he drove past even slower three more times, laughing as the camera flashed each time he drove by at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, he received five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.

"I CAN'T BELIEVE we're still giving clothing as a gift. Whenever you get clothing as a present, you always open it up and you think, 'Not even close.' And the person who gives it is always like, 'You can take it back if you don't like it.' 'That's all right. I'll just throw it out.' Don't give me an errand." – *Jim Gaffigan*

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01	BLACK WALKER			
03	NAVY WALKER			

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